# DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 032 093 LI 001 678

By-Sinclair, Dorothy; And Others

Cooperative Services for "Big Country" Libraries. Report of a Survey with Recommendations for Cooperation Among Libraries of All Types in Thirty-Six Counties of West Central Texas.

Spons Agency-Texas State Library, Austin. Field Services Div.

Pub Date 69

Note-176p.

EDRS Price MF-$0.75 HC-$8.90

Descriptors-College Libraries, *Library Cooperation, *Library Planning, Library Programs, Library Services, *Library Surveys, *Public Libraries, *Regional Libraries, School Libraries, Special Libraries, State Libraries

Identifiers-*Texas

This study was conducted to explore possibilities for cooperative library activities in the 36 county region of the Abilene Major Resource System which has the Abilene Public Library as the Major Resource Center. The report begins with a consideration of the region as an environment for public library service, followed by a detailed assessment of the 35 public libraries. In addition to a consideration of the locally-provided services and collections, there is a description of the Texas State Library's Major Resource Center and Area Library program as it affects the region. Consideration of academic libraries includes an assessment of services and collections and a description of resources outside the region to which the academic library group has access. The description of the school library situation includes comments on the regional centers recently established to assist local school districts and their libraries. The relatively few special libraries in the region are also described. The major needs identified are (1) publicity on the importance of libraries, (2) cooperation among existing libraries of all types, (3) establishing long-range goals for the libraries of the region, and (4) strengthening the Abilene Public Library in its leadership role. Specific recommendations for implementing these needs are made. (JB)

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# COOPERATIVE SERVICES FOR "BIG COUNTRY" LIBRARIES

## Report of A Survey with Recommendations for Cooperation Among Libraries of All Types in Thirty-Six Counties of West Central Texas

By
Dorothy Sinclair

1969

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## Report of A Survey with Recommendations for Cooperation Among Libraries of All Types in Thirty-Six Counties of West Central Texas

By

Dorothy Sinclair

Assisted by

Richard K. Gardner
Mary Ann Hanna
John Rowell

This Study and Report were financed by a grant from the Texas State Library, Field Services Division, and authorized under the Library Services and Construction Act of 1964, as amended.

Cleveland, Ohio

1969

# PREFACE

The impetus which led to this study and Report came from two directions. In Abilene, an *ad hoc* committee of local businessmen, officials, librarians, and interested citizens expressed the wish to explore the possibilities of cooperative activities among the libraries in the immediate Abilene area, in the interests of improved quality of resources and service and the wisest possible use of tax and private funds. The designation of the Abilene Public Library as Major Resource Center for a 36-county region, as part of a statewide plan for public library service recommended by the Library Development Committee of the Texas Library Association and implemented by the Texas State Library, simultaneously brought the need for planned cooperative public library activities throughout the region as a whole.

This Report, and the study which preceded it, attempt to merge the two approaches into an integrated whole. The Report, therefore, is broader in geographic coverage than the Abilene area; it does cover the 36-county region of the Abilene Major Resource System. It is also broader in scope than the public library system only, in that it reports on, and makes recommendations concerning, academic and school libraries as well as the public library group.

The survey team included specialists in the three types of library service. Dorothy Sinclair visited all the public libraries in the region, as well as all but one academic library and several school libraries. The major responsibility for the Report is hers. Richard K. Gardner made two trips to the area, visited the Abilene and San Angelo academic libraries more than once, and those in Brownwood and Big Spring once each. He is the author of the chapter on Academic Libraries.

John Rowell, the school library specialist on the team, originally planned to visit selected school libraries and to confer with school library specialists of the Texas Education Agency in Austin. He was unable to carry out all of this plan, although he did confer with state specialists and leading school librarians of the Texas Association of School Librarians. Mrs. Mary Ann Hanna was therefore sent as his deputy to Austin and to the region to make the on-site visits and to confer with TEA officials. She reported her findings to Mr. Rowell and Miss Sinclair after a series of interviews more curtailed than was originally hoped for. Her willingness to undertake this assignment at short notice on an emergency basis is greatly appreciated. Except for Mrs. Hanna, the survey team is composed of faculty members of the School of Library Science at Case Western Reserve University, who conferred frequently about the Report and its recommendations, and arrived jointly at most of the conclusions involving cooperation among types of libraries. The team also had assistance from Claire Balombin, a student, in statistical work.

The members of the team met with the traditional warm hospitality for which Texas is famous, and were on occasion almost overwhelmed with kindness on the part of the librarians and others whom they visited and interviewed. The team hopes that this Report, which is critical in a number of cases of existing libraries, will not be viewed as a poor return for such kindness and hospitality. While librarians know that a survey must be critical if it is to have any value, it is easier to bear with noble equanimity a critique of one's neighbor's library than to find one's own under sharp scrutiny. The small public libraries, in particular, must be described as far from adequate. This professional obligation, which must be met, does not in any way detract from the surveyor's warm admiration of the heroic efforts of women's clubs to start them and raise funds to keep them going, nor the dedicated work of the volunteers or partially trained librarians who man these libraries. These efforts deserve to be rewarded by progress toward well-supported, more extensive service, and the surveyors hope that the recommendations of this Report will be of value to all the librarians, officials, administrators, and interested citizens of the region in bringing about, through a realistic plan of cooperation, better library service for all users of libraries of every type.

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# INTRODUCTION

The 36-county region whose libraries form the subject of this study lies in the west central part of Texas, known locally as the "Big Country." A large area, it almost spans the state, reaching the Oklahoma border in the north, and coming within one county of New Mexico on the west, and within one county of Mexico at its southwesternmost point. The region is one of ten determined by the Library Development Committee of the Texas Library Association in 1966, each of which contains a large public library designated as a Major Resource Center. The Major Resource Center (abbreviated in Texas and this Report to MRC) for this region is the Abilene Public Library. Mason and Kimble counties, originally part of the region, have since been transferred to another MRC district. (See Map I.)

Although this Report is dated 1969, most of the statistical data, especially for public libraries, come from the publication Texas Public Library Statistics, 1967.[1] While these figures were the latest available at the time of writing, they are inevitably slightly out of date, a fact which must be borne in mind in view of significant changes in some libraries' budgets. Interviews with librarians frequently brought to light such changes, which will be occasionally mentioned in the text. In most of the tables, however, comparability of data requires that the 1967 figures be used throughout.

For certain other information, 1960 census figures have had to be used. Surveyors working late in a decade are seriously handicapped by the lack of later

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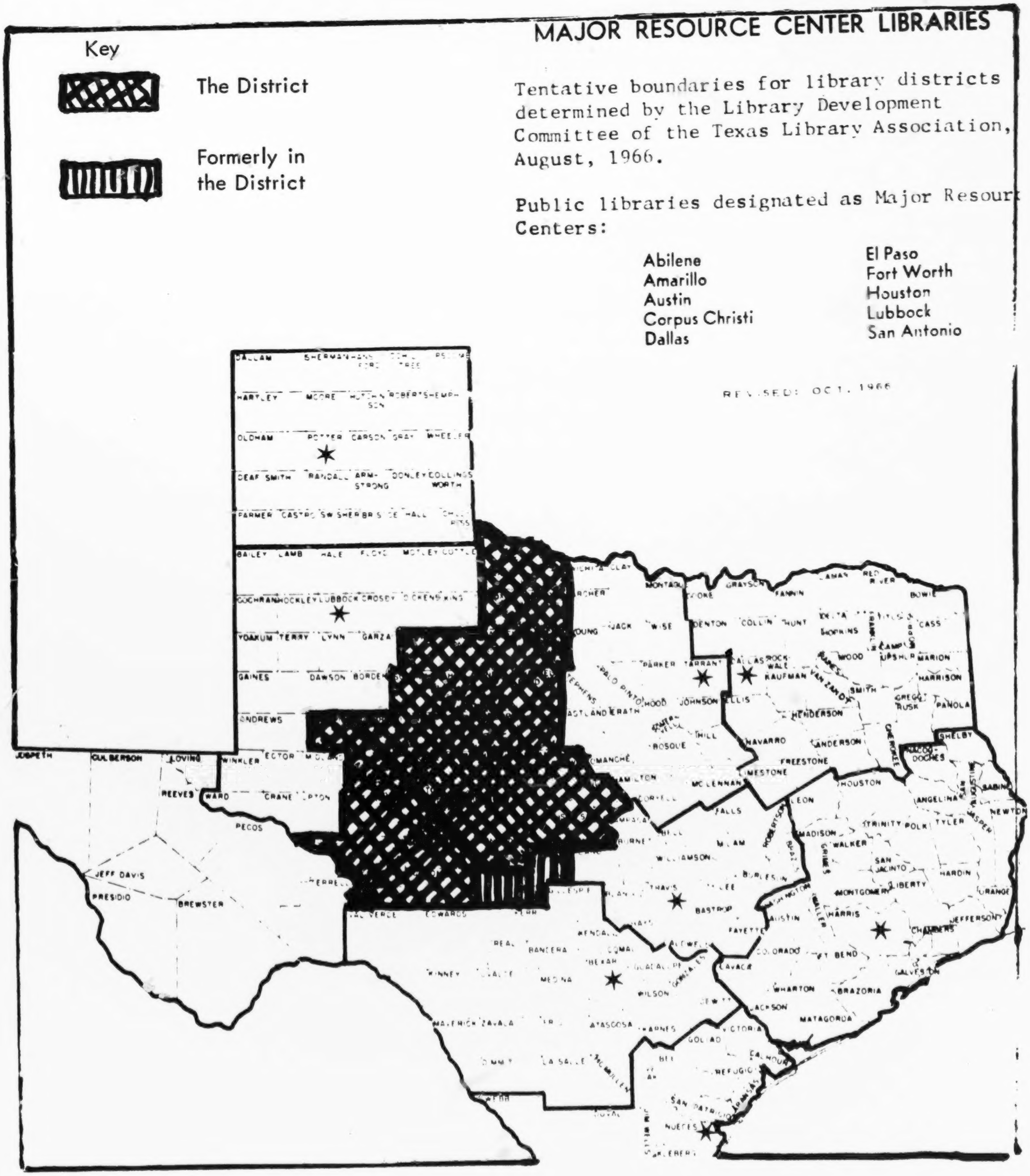
[1] Texas State Library. Field Services Division. Texas Public Library Statistics, 1967. (Austin: 1968). Hereafter cited by title only.


Key
The District
Formerly in the District
DALLAM
SHERMAN
HANSFORD
OCHILTREE
HARTLEY
MOORE
HUTCHINSON
ROBERTS
HEMPHILL
OLDHAM
POTTER
CARSON
GRAY
WHEELER
DEAF SMITH
RANDALL
ARMSTRONG
DONLEY
COLLINGSWORTH
PARMER
CASTRO
SWISHER
BRISCOE
HALL
BAILEY
LAMB
HALE
FLOYD
MOTLEY
COTTLE
COCHRAN
HOCKLEY
LUBBOCK
CROSBY
DICKENS
KING
YOAKUM
TERRY
LYNN
GARZA
GAINES
DAWSON
BORDEN
ANDREWS
JEFF DAVIS
CULBERSON
LOVING
WINKLER
ECTOR
REEVES
WARD
CRANE
UPTON
PECOS
PRESIDIO
BREWSTER
VAL VERDE
EDWARDS
KERR
REAL
BANDERA
KINNEY
UVALDE
MEDINA
BEXAR
COMAL
KENDALL
GUADALUPE
WILSON
MAVERICK
ZAVALA
ATASCOSA
KARNES
DIMMIT
LA SALLE
McMULLEN
GOLIAD
REFUGIO
SAN PATRICIO
NUECES
KLEBERG
ARANSAS
CALHOUN
VICTORIA
DEWITT
JACKSON
LAVACA
WHARTON
MATAGORDA
BRAZORIA
FT. BEND
GALVESTON
HARRIS
CHAMBERS
JEFFERSON
ORANGE
LIBERTY
HARDIN
MONTGOMERY
SAN JACINTO
WALKER
MADISON
GRIMES
WALLER
AUSTIN
COLORADO
FAYETTE
WASHINGTON
BASTROP
TRAVIS
HAYS
CALDWELL
LEE
BURLESON
WILLIAMSON
MILAM
FALLS
ROBERTSON
BRAZOS
LEON
HOUSTON
TRINITY
POLK
TYLER
JASPER
NEWTON
SABINE
ANGELINA
NACOGDOCHES
SHELBY
PANOLA
RUSK
GREGG
HARRISON
MARION
CASS
BOWIE
UPSHUR
CAMP
TITUS
RED RIVER
LAMAR
DELTA
HOPKINS
WOOD
SMITH
HENDERSON
ANDERSON
CHEROKEE
FREESTONE
LIMESTONE
NAVARRO
ELLIS
KAUFMAN
VAN ZANDT
ROCKWALL
DALLAS
TARRANT
PARKER
HOOD
JOHNSON
HILL
BOSQUE
McLENNAN
CORYELL
HAMILTON
COMANCHE
ERATH
EASTLAND
STEPHENS
PALO PINTO
YOUNG
JACK
WISE
DENTON
COLLIN
HUNT
GRAYSON
COOKE
FANNIN
MONTAGUE
CLAY
WICHITA
ARCHER

# MAJOR RESOURCE CENTER LIBRARIES

Tentative boundaries for library districts determined by the Library Development Committee of the Texas Library Association, August, 1966.

Public libraries designated as Major Resour Centers:

- Abilene
- Amarillo
- Austin
- Corpus Christi
- Dallas
- El Paso
- Fort Worth
- Houston
- Lubbock
- San Antonio

REVISED: OCT. 1966

MAP I. THE ABILENE MAJOR RESOURCE CENTER DISTRICT official statistics; in a year or two a new census will provide a much more reliable body of figures. Nevertheless, in a few cases the 1960 figures have been included in the text, from the volume dealing with social and economic characteristics of the state.[1]

The region is the largest of the ten MRC districts in Texas, comprising approximately 13% of the total area of the state. It contains, however, only about 4.5% of the state's population, and accounts for slightly less than 5.3% of Texas's economy.[2] It contains 35 public libraries, 5 four-year college or university libraries, one junior college library, about a dozen special libraries, and a considerably larger number of school libraries. While these numbers of libraries may appear impressive, there is no one library in the region, whether academic or public, which can fairly be called major in the sense that, for example, the Dallas Public Library or the libraries of such universities as Southern Methodist or the University of Texas are major collections.

In attempting to assess the region's library resources, and to recommend a future course of library development, it is necessary to have reasonable standards for purposes of evaluation. Published standards exist, both at a national and state level, and these will be used. In addition to such statistical criteria developed by professional organizations, it seemed desirable to compare the libraries of the region with actual libraries in regions similar in population and economy, especially in the public library group. Nine other states have been selected for purposes of comparison: Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, the Dakotas, Utah, Wyoming, and New Hampshire. The first eight are western states, low in population density. Each had a population in 1960 of less than a million, and is therefore not too much larger than the region as a whole, with its approximately half million. Several are, in whole or in part, Plains states similar in economy to the region under study. New Hampshire is included as an eastern state comparable in population and smaller in area, although otherwise quite unlike the region.[1]

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[1] U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Population, 1960. General Social and Economic Characteristics, Texas ... (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1962).

[2] Dallas Morning News. Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1968-1969. (Dallas: 1968) pp. 244-340. Hereafter cited by short title only.

No suggestion is made that these states offer more than a very rough measure of comparison. Where such comparisons are made, they are intended to offer to readers of the Report some indication of the situation in other states, to aid them in assessing the library services of the region against actualities as well as against professional standards. Texas as a whole rightly compares its libraries with the nation's best, not because they have as yet reached that peak, but because the state's resources justify the expectation that they should do so in the near future. The region under study, as part of the state, should by all means share in statewide progress to the fullest. But it is a region which is somewhat isolated, with a rather austere attitude toward public expenditure and an independent posture with regard to state assistance. Its citizens may, at the present stage of library experience, respond more readily to a comparison with South Dakota or New Mexico than with California or New York State.

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[1] Library statistics are not readily available for regions within states; therefore, entire states as nearly comparable as possible had to be found.

The Report will give somewhat fuller treatment to the public library situation in the region than to libraries of other types, for several reasons: first, because the MRC was set up primarily for public library service; second, because the funds made available for the survey came primarily from Title I of the Library Services and Construction Act monies, and are therefore essentially to be devoted to improvement of public library services; third, because the legislation recently passed by the Texas Legislature will offer additional opportunities for cooperative activity under the leadership of the MRC, Area Libraries, and others among the public group. In addition, as the public library's service and clientele are the broadest in scope, including the populations served by the other types of libraries, it appears to offer the logical starting-point.

Other types of libraries will not, however, be neglected. One of the major purposes of the survey was to study and recommend methods of cooperation among libraries--not only among those of the same type, but also among the various types. The six academic libraries will have an important part to play in such cooperation, along with the public library group. The school libraries offer a problem somewhat different and more complex; it is easier to identify cooperative activities which will benefit such libraries than to find contributions the school library group may be able to make to the total. The same comments apply, by and large, to the several special libraries in the region.

The Report will begin with a consideration of the region as an environment for public library service, then move on to a detailed description and assessment of the 35 public libraries. In addition to a consideration of the locally-provided services and collections, there will be a description of the Texas State Library's MRC and

Area Library program as it affects the region. Academic libraries will be considered in a separate chapter, which will include not only an assessment of services and collections, but also a description of resources outside the region to which the academic library group has access. The school library situation will be described in the next section, which will include comments on the regional centers recently established to assist local school districts and their libraries, and the possible effect these centers may have on school library resources and services. A brief section will comment upon the relatively few special libraries in the region.

## Major General Recommendations

A final chapter will deal in detail with recommendations for cooperation among libraries, and types of libraries, in the region. In order to highlight those matters which the surveyors, as a result of their study, believe should receive first priority attention, these general major recommendations are listed below:

1. Steps must be taken to heighten the awareness, among citizens, officials, trustees, and library personnel of the region, of the urgent importance of knowledge and information in today's world, and the potential contribution of libraries toward its acquisition and extension.

   It is a commonplace that knowledge is "exploding" today. The best formal education goes rapidly out of date, unless supplemented by more recent information. The money expended for the schooling and college training of our young people is, to some extent, wasted unless we also provide means for adding to it new knowledge as the old becomes outdated.

One important way in which many communities provide a means for keeping citizens informed is through a good public library service. Such a service supplements the library resources traditionally provided at the college level, and increasingly recognized as essential throughout the school years. An out-of-school source for continuing self-education and information is the greatest library need in the 36-county region covered by this Report. College libraries of the region are not rich, school libraries are, in many communities, relatively new and far from strong. Both types need continued attention and strengthening, but it is the public libraries which form the tragically weak link in the region's chain of information. Until the communities realize what a serious gap this lack creates in the educational, cultural, and economic health of their citizens, little improvement can be expected.

The weakness of the libraries begins a spiral from which the region must extricate itself. Citizens unaccustomed to good library service expect no more, because they are unacquainted with better. People who have never lived in a community whose library was the vital information center of the region, in tune with community affairs and able to provide assistance toward whatever important cultural or factual need might occur, do not ask for such service in their local libraries. The libraries, experiencing no demand, make no provision for such service. Officials and boards, unacquainted with a service different in nature as well as extent from that currently given, are unaware of inadequacies. No one wishes to awaken the sleeping dog, or is even aware of his existence.

This report contends that an awakening is urgent, not for the sake of the libraries _qua_ libraries, but for the sake of the citizens who are deprived of an important service, and for the future of the region as a place to live, a place to raise a family, a place to engage in business.

2. Because the library and book resources of the region are relatively modest, cooperation among existing libraries of all types, to supply the needs of any resident, is necessary. In times and situations of scarcity, as for example in pioneer days, sharing is a necessity. The region finds itself in a situation of scarcity with regard to books and library resources. Within limits, to be defined later, cooperation and sharing will stretch these slender resources to their most efficient boundaries. Existing cooperative efforts should be continued and extended, new ones should be planned and carried out. The Texas State Library's program should be pushed with vigor, and advantage should be taken of new resources which are anticipated as a result of new legislation for further cooperation. New forms of cooperation among types of libraries must be explored.

3. Library resources within the region should be strengthened according to a regional plan. While cooperation may spread existing resources a little farther, it will not miraculously provide new resources. In library terms, cooperation among inadequate libraries will not magically make them adequate. Region-wide planning is necessary to make the best use of regional and state funds, as well as existing resources. The role of each library in the region must be defined, with ascending but realistic

goals set. Libraries undertaking functions beyond their normal services must receive compensation for such efforts, either in money or through some type of reciprocity. Local support will need to be increased to support strengthened service to meet local needs.

4. The leadership role assigned to the Abilene Public Library by its designation as Major Resource Center must be sustained and further supported. Demands of an increasing program on this library's staff and resources, and especially on its Director, will become a severe burden unless this, the key library in the entire cooperative effort, is strong. State supplementary funds have, for several years, made possible the plugging of some serious gaps in book and periodical resources. This effort must continue for several reasons: more gaps must be filled; the level of depth in the collection must be sustained by adding new materials as they appear; increasing demands from the region, as the MRC service is increasingly publicized and used, must be met. In addition to strengthening and deepening subject collections, the library must be able to duplicate more extensively for long-term loan collections to the region, as well as to serve the needs of its own clientele.

Perhaps even more important, the staff of the Abilene Public Library must be strong enough to relieve the Director and other key personnel from close supervision of certain day-to-day tasks, in order that they may concentrate on planning and leadership at a higher and broader level. Such supportive staff must be competent and experienced, able to assume delegated responsibilities. Revision of the salary structure of the library appears to be required if such persons are to be recruited and retained.

Specific recommendations for implementing these priority needs will, as has been indicated, be made in the final Chapter of the Report. In addition, planning and development of cooperation must be a constant concern of those connected with libraries of any type. Those closest to the situation will be aware of changing needs and problems which will call for new solutions. This Report, therefore, contains a number of recommendations for group activity and continued reevaluation and reconsideration of cooperative efforts. No fixed blueprint, to be followed exactly, has been intended here; such a blueprint would be undesirable. Involvement of all concerned in the development of the coordinated library service of the region, essential if progress is to be made and accepted, requires full discussion of the Report, revision of its recommendations as necessary, implementation of those which seem most urgent locally. If the Report stimulates such involvement, it will have served its chief purpose, even if some of its specific recommendations are never accepted.

Fortunately, the libraries and librarians of the region have a tradition of cooperation; a group of citizens and officials, both public and private, who have expressed interest and concern in interlibrary cooperation were in a large degree responsible for the commissioning of this Report. The surveyors are confident, therefore, that the region has a good basis on which to build further cooperative activity and to move forward toward the desired goal of improved service to all its library users.

## I. THE REGION AS AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

While it is manifestly desirable that a surveyor, coming to a region from the outside, should study the characteristics of the environment as a whole, it may seem unnecessary to include the data discovered in the body of the Report. It is to be expected that these facts will be known to the Report's potential readers. The surveyor uses them, however, as a background for the study of libraries, and relates specific recommendations concerning library service to the environment in which it is to be given. We must, therefore, consider how environmental factors do, in fact, affect library development, and then look at the characteristics of the region in the light of that information.

Public library service is most easily and economically given in a region or community with the following characteristics:

A population large enough to warrant the provision of specialized resources and personnel (at least 150,000; preferably 300,000 or more)

A concentration of population within a relatively small area; failing this, good roads and good weather, to allow easy access

A high level of formal education; an educated population provides natural library users who value and support library services

Diversified and stable sources of public income, providing a good level of support and not subject to sharp variations from year to year

One governmental jurisdiction, to allow for unity and continuity of policy and administration.

These criteria are met, in full, only in urban or metropolitan centers as a rule. That is why larger cities have generally been the first to provide libraries with varied resources and services, and why larger unified counties are now moving into the first rank. In the region under consideration, we find the largest public libraries, as might be expected, in Abilene and San Angelo.

Since it is clear that the region as a whole will not meet the criteria listed above, we must conclude that it will encounter problems in developing quality public library service. We need not conclude, however, that because public libraries cannot grow here like weeds, they cannot be nurtured and brought to productive maturity through care and skill. Regions elsewhere, constituting environments even less favorable, have had libraries grow and flourish. In considering the ways in which the region departs from the ideal, we are identifying problems which must be taken into account, not discovering insuperable barriers to good library service.

The 36-county region is large, covering 34,387 square miles, and accounting for 13% of the state's total area. Except for a few centers, the population is sparse, although its total of 479,555[1] easily exceeds the desirable minimum. Only three counties, Howard, Tom Green, and Taylor, exceed the state average density of 38.94 persons per square mile. Five counties, in the western part of the region, have less than two persons per square mile. Relatively high density, within the region, is found in the counties which constitute the Abilene metropolitan area, and in a belt which runs along Interstate Highway 20. Special economic considerations probably account for Scurry County's relatively high 17 persons per square mile, and the 18.7 in Wilbarger County. (See Maps II and III).

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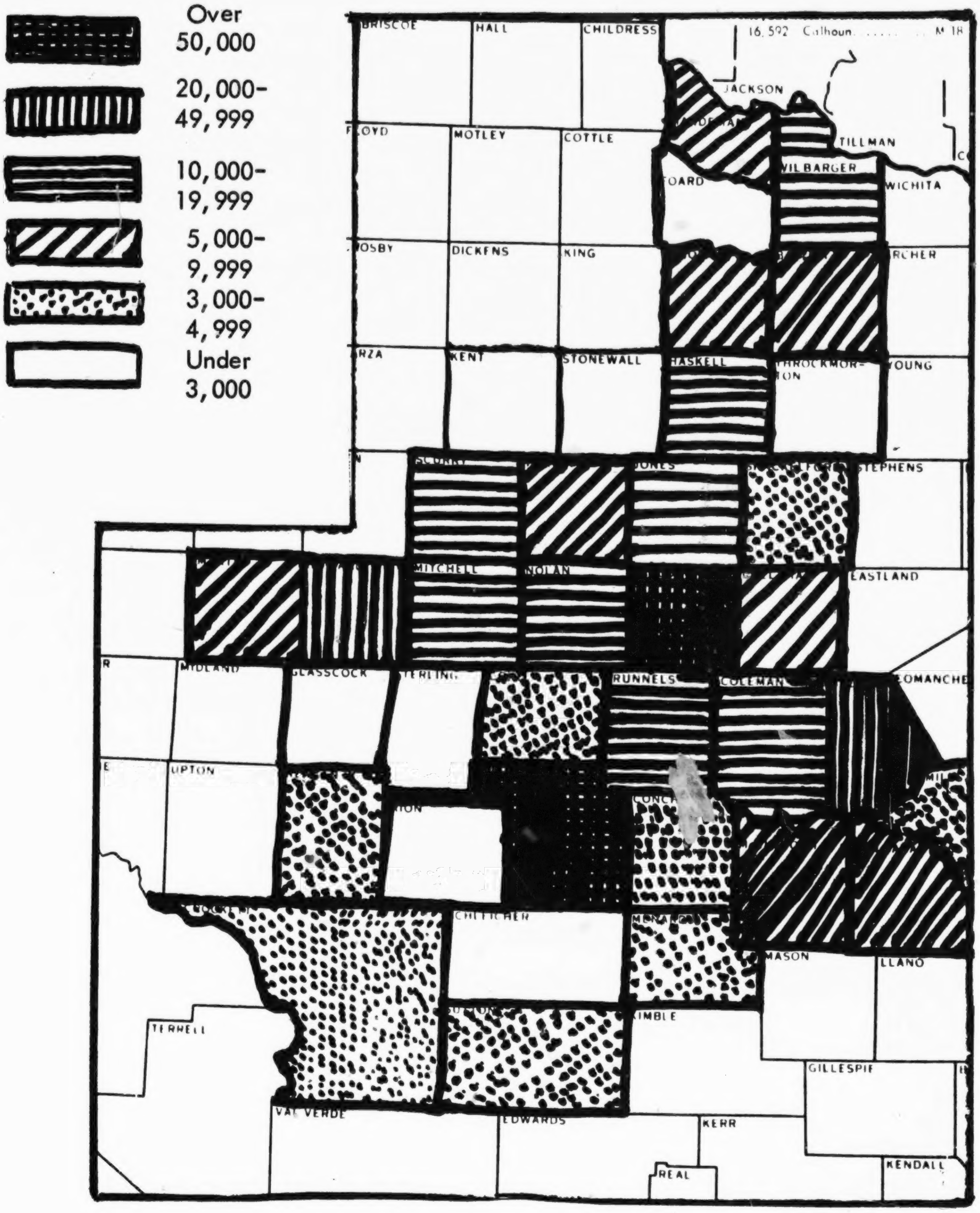
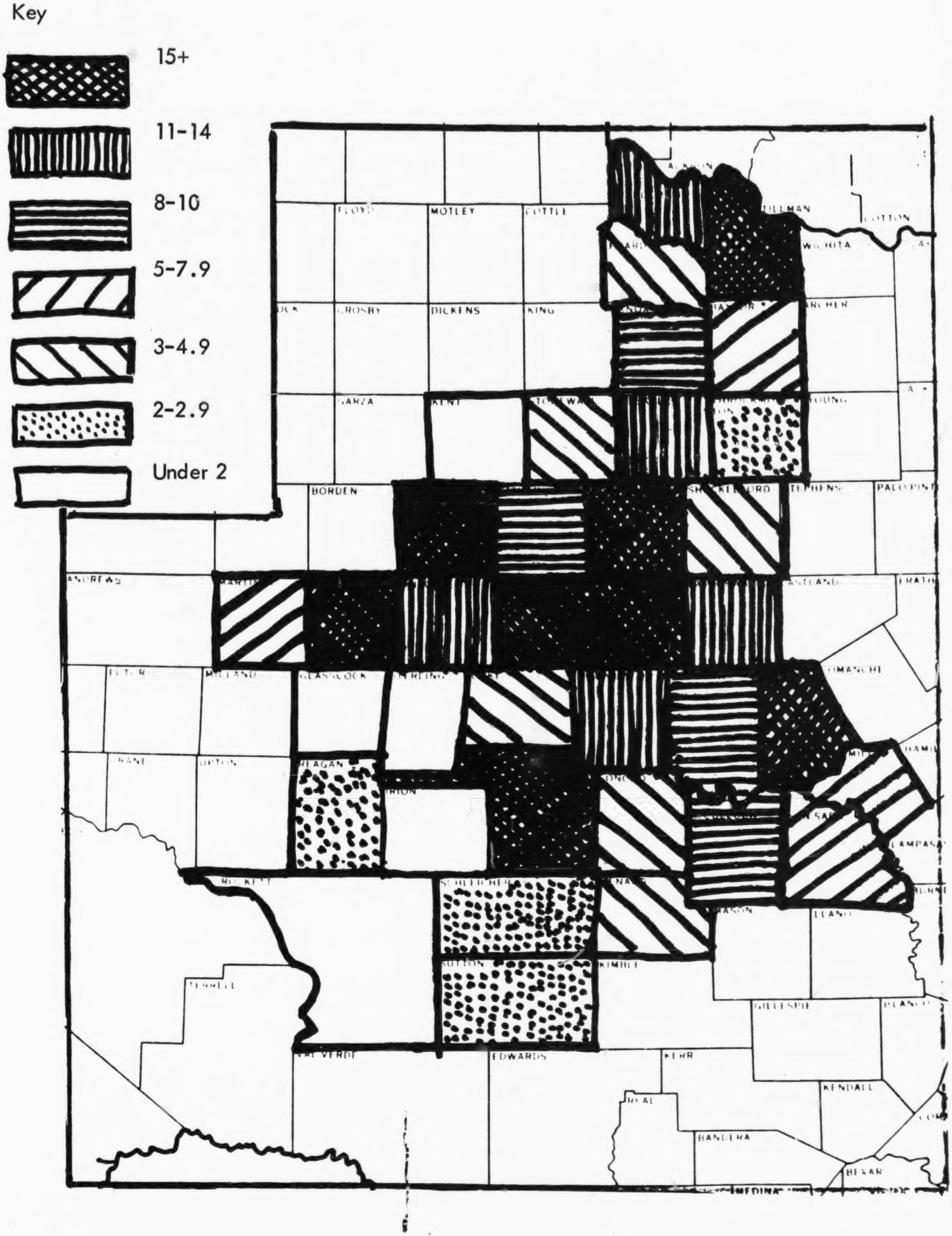
[1] All Texas population figures, unless otherwise indicated, are 1966 estimates, from Public Library Statistics or Texas Almanac.


Over 50,000
20,000-49,999
10,000-19,999
5,000-9,999
3,000-4,999
Under 3,000
BRISCOE
HALL
CHILDRESS
JACKSON
TILLMAN
FLOYD
MOTLEY
COTTLE
WILBARGER
OARD
WICHITA
OSBY
DICKENS
KING
RCHER
RZA
KENT
STONEWALL
HASKELL
THROCKMORTON
YOUNG
JONES
STEPHENS
MITCHELL
NOLAN
EASTLAND
MIDLAND
GLASSCOCK
TERLING
RUNNELS
COLEMAN
OMANCHE
UPTON
CONC
CHLEICHER
MENARD
MASON
LLANO
KIMBLE
TERRELL
GILLESPIE
VAL VERDE
EDWARDS
KERR
REAL
KENDALL

MAP II. POPULATION


Key
15+
11-14
8-10
5-7.9
3-4.9
2-2.9
Under 2
FLOYD
MOTLEY
COTTLE
TILLMAN
COTTON
WICHITA
CROSBY
DICKENS
KING
ARCHER
GARZA
KENT
YOUNG
BORDEN
PALO PINTO
ANDREWS
MARTIN
ERATH
MIDLAND
GLASSCOCK
COMANCHE
UPTON
REAGAN
LAMPASAS
SCHLEICHER
MASON
LLANO
SUTTON
KIMBLE
TERRELL
GILLESPIE
VAL VERDE
EDWARDS
KERR
KENDALL
REAL
BANDERA
BEXAR
MEDINA

MAP III. POPULATION DENSITY

Fortunately, the handicap of low population density is compensated for, to some extent, by the relative ease of travel in the region. Highways, including secondary farm roads, are excellent. There are no mountains or impassable deserts. Weather is seldom a serious barrier to easy travel. Large as the region is, no extremity of it is more than about three hours' drive from Abilene, and most of it is considerably closer. Thus, while distances are great, driving time within the region is relatively fast.

## Educational Characteristics

Information about the educational level of the population in 1969 is not readily available. Table I shows median years of school completed by adults over 25, as of 1960. Whether these figures apply also to adults over 34, as of 1969, depends upon extent of migration, in and out, and the educational levels of the newcomers and departures. No data are available on these matters, but interviews with librarians and others in the region reflected a widespread impression that "the young people are leaving." If this is the case, the educational level may be affected, since young people almost invariably show a higher number of grades completed than do persons over 25.[1]

Table I, therefore, does not constitute a satisfactory indication of educational levels in 1969. It is included as the best available representation of an important factor, but cannot be given too much weight. For what it is worth, it shows

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[1] For its region, which is not coterminous with our 36-county one, the West Central Texas Council of Governments reports that "Every county in the Region with the exception of Nolan and Taylor lost population in the under 18 group between 1950 and 1960." from Regional Data Book, 1968. (Abilene: The Council, 1968) p. 2. See Map VIII for the COG coverage.

Table I. YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, 1960: MEDIANS FOR ADULTS OVER 25, BY COUNTY

| County | Median Grade Completed | |
|---|---|---|
| | Males | Females |
| Baylor | 9.2 | 10.6 |
| Brown | 10.1 | 10.7 |
| Callahan | 9.8 | 10.6 |
| Coke | 10.4 | 11.1 |
| Coleman | 9.6 | 10.6 |
| Concho | 9.6 | 10.3 |
| Crockett | 11.2 | 12.0 |
| Fisher | 8.9 | 10.0 |
| Foard | 9.1 | 10.2 |
| Glasscock | 10.5 | 12.0 |
| Hardeman | 9.3 | 10.4 |
| Haskell | 9.0 | 10.1 |
| Howard | 11.0 | 11.3 |
| Irion | 9.2 | 10.2 |
| Jones | 9.4 | 10.5 |
| Kent | 11.1 | 11.0 |
| Knox | 9.2 | 10.1 |
| McCulloch | 9.9 | 10.5 |
| Martin | 9.6 | 10.3 |
| Menard | 9.0 | 10.4 |
| Mills | 9.6 | 10.2 |
| Mitchell | 9.3 | 10.2 |
| Nolan | 9.8 | 11.0 |
| Reagan | 10.7 | 11.8 |
| Runnels | 9.3 | 9.9 |
| San Saba | 9.3 | 10.1 |
| Schleicher | 10.3 | 10.6 |
| Scurry | 10.4 | 11.2 |
| Shackelford | 10.7 | 11.4 |
| Sterling | 11.2 | 12.2 |
| Stonewall | 9.1 | 10.5 |
| Sutton | 9.0 | 10.5 |
| Taylor | 12.0 | 12.1 |
| Throckmorton | 10.1 | 10.9 |
| Tom Green | 10.4 | 11.0 |
| Wilbarger | 9.3 | 10.2 |

Texas as a whole: Males: 10.1; Females: 10.7

as of 1960, 11 counties above the state median for both men and women, in years of school completed by adults over 25, 4 counties over the state median or at the same level for one of the sexes, and the remaining 21 counties below for both sexes.

## Economy of the Region

Economically, the region appears to be unified around Abilene as a natural trading center, especially in the north. In the southern part, San Angelo is the place to which people in the rural area and smaller communities turn for special needs. Except for some trade moving toward Wichita Falls in the northernmost counties, and toward Midland and Odessa in the westernmost, the region supplies its own needs except for those unusual items which are sought in Dallas or outside the state.

Looking at the economy of the region as a whole, we find that, while it is not rich, it is certainly not poor. The counties in the west, some of them sparsely populated it is true, show a per capita income higher than the state average. These include Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Reagan, and Sterling. When we look assessed valuations, however, we find a different picture. All but three of the counties in the region have tax valuations in excess of the state average, and the three with lower per capita values are the first, second, and fourth highest in total population. When per capita income is compared with tax valuation, some rather sharp discrepancies arise. These may betoken a good deal of absentee ownership of valuable and large properties in some counties.[1] (See Maps IV to VII).

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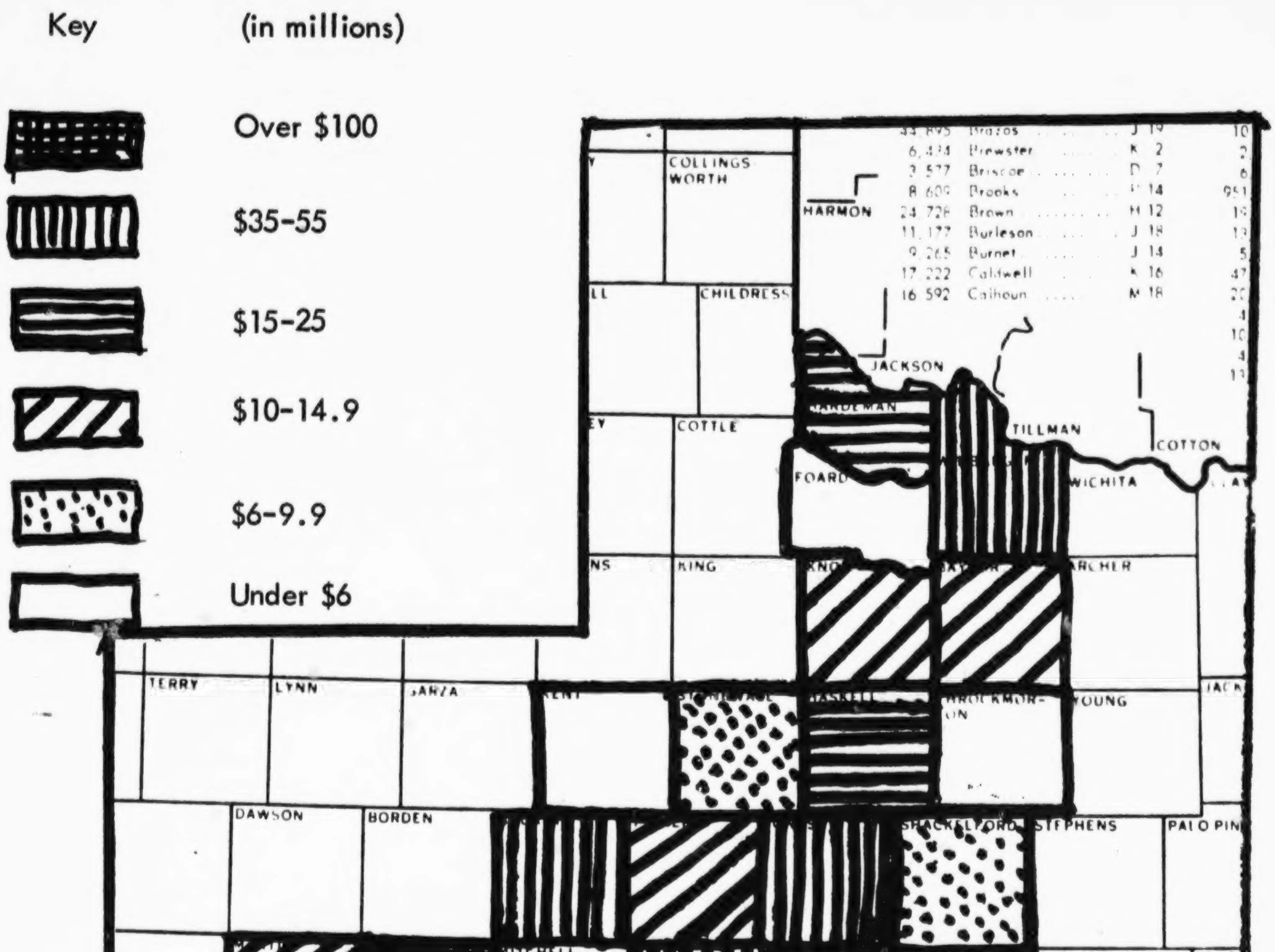
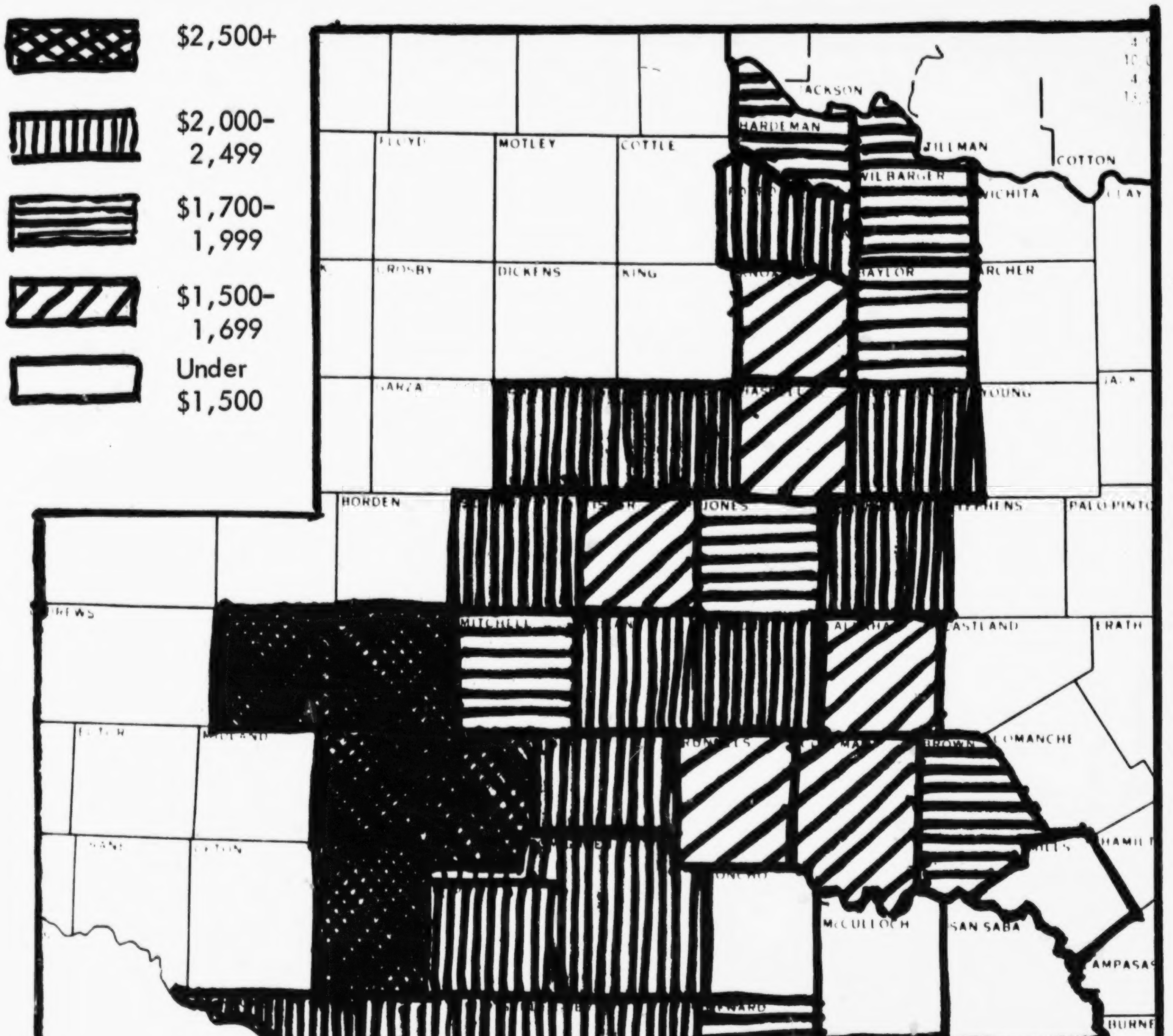
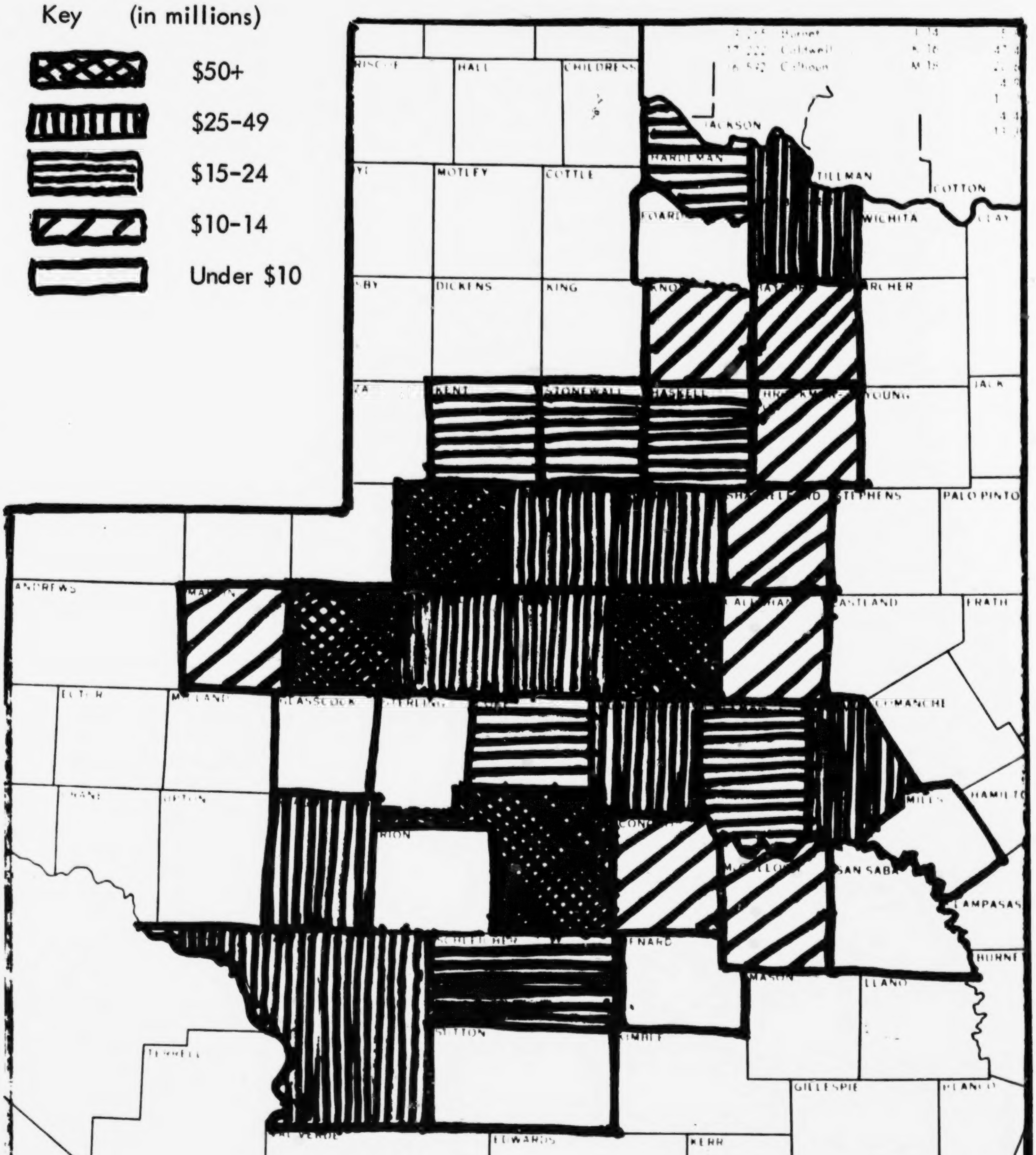
[1] Regional Data Book 1968 (Abilene: West Central Texas Council of Governments, 1968) p.3, notes that "While the number of farms is decreasing and the average size of farms is increasing, farm land is also becoming more expensive in the Region." (Map VIII for coverage).


Key
(in millions)
Over $100
$35-55
$15-25
$10-14.9
$6-9.9
Under $6
COLLINGS WORTH
HARMON
CHILDRESS
JACKSON
COTTLE
TILLMAN
COTTON
FOARD
WICHITA
KING
ARCHER
TERRY
LYNN
GARZA
HASKELL
THROCKMORTON
YOUNG
DAWSON
BORDEN
SHACKELFORD
STEPHENS
PALO PINTO
MITCHELL
EASTLAND
MIDLAND
GLASSCOCK
STERLING
RUNNELS
COLEMAN
COMANCHE
UPTON
CONCHO
LAMPASAS
MENARD
BURNET
MASON
LLANO
TERRELL
GILLESPIE
BLANCO
VAL VERDE
EDWARDS
KERR
Brazos
Brewster
Briscoe
Brooks
Brown
Burleson
Burnet
Caldwell
Calhoun

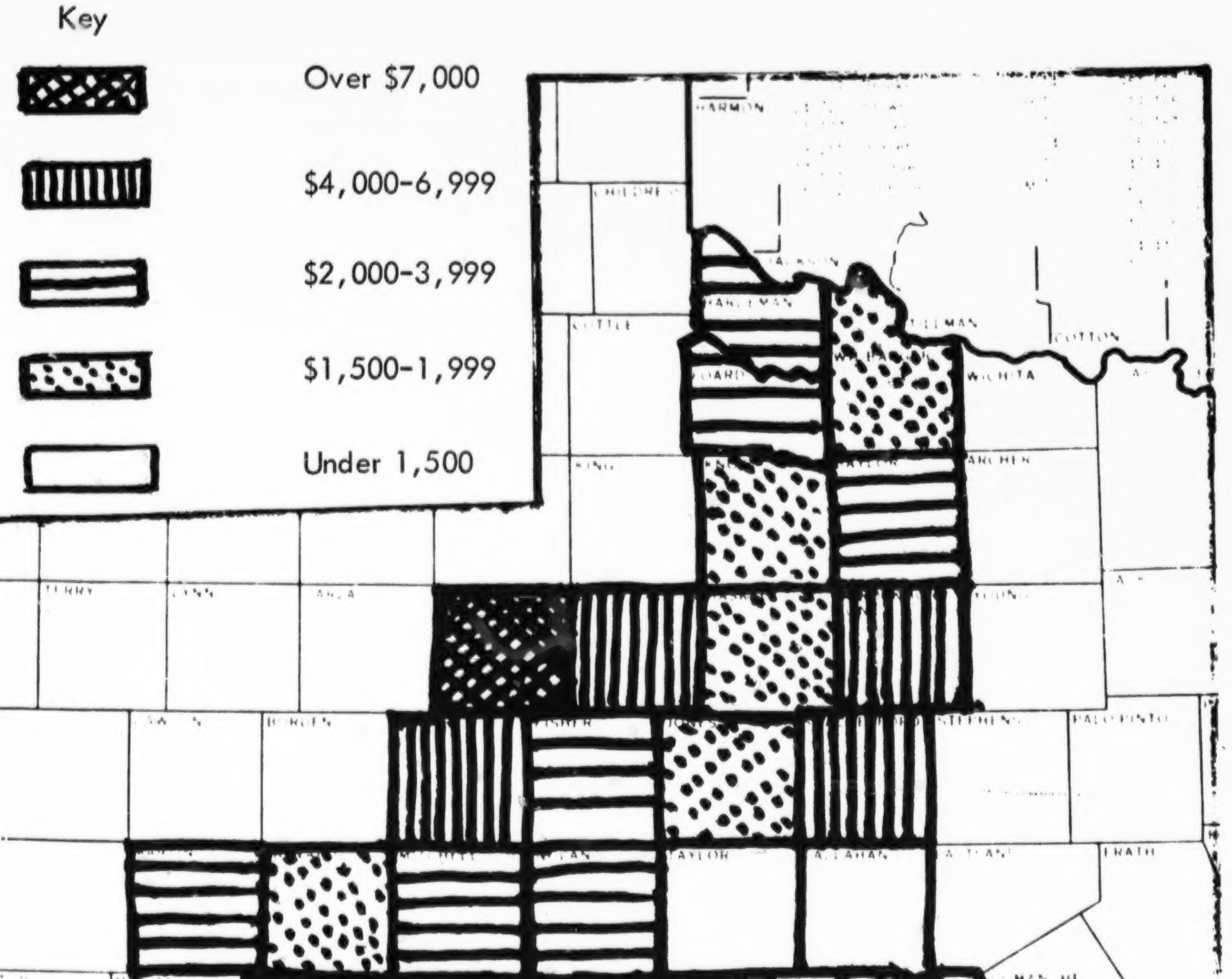
MAP IV. DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME BY COUNTY


$2,500+
$2,000-2,499
$1,700-1,999
$1,500-1,699
Under $1,500
JACKSON
HARDEMAN
TILLMAN
COTTON
FLOYD
MOTLEY
COTTLE
WILBARGER
WICHITA
CROSBY
DICKENS
KING
BAYLOR
ARCHER
GARZA
YOUNG
BORDEN
JONES
STEPHENS
PALO PINTO
MITCHELL
EASTLAND
ERATH
ECTOR
MIDLAND
RUNNELS
BROWN
COMANCHE
McCULLOCH
SAN SABA
MENARD
MASON
LLANO
KIMBLE
TERRELL
GILLESPIE
BLANCO
EDWARDS
KERR
REAL
KENDALL
BANDERA
BEXAR

MAP V. PER CAPITA INCOME BY COUNTY


Key (in millions)
$50+
$25-49
$15-24
$10-14
Under $10
HALL
CHILDRESS
JACKSON
HARDEMAN
TILLMAN
COTTON
MOTLEY
COTTLE
FOARD
WICHITA
CLAY
DICKENS
KING
ARCHER
KENT
STONEWALL
HASKELL
YOUNG
JACK
STEPHENS
PALO PINTO
ANDREWS
EASTLAND
ERATH
ECTOR
GLASSCOCK
COMANCHE
MILLS
SAN SABA
LAMPASAS
SCHLEICHER
MENARD
MASON
LLANO
SUTTON
KIMBLE
GILLESPIE
BLANCO
VAL VERDE
EDWARDS
KERR
KENDALL
REAL
BANDERA
COMAL
BEXAR
KINNEY
UVALDE
MEDINA

MAP VI. TOTAL TAX ASSESSMENT VALUE


Key
Over $7,000
$4,000-6,999
$2,000-3,999
$1,500-1,999
Under 1,500
HARMON
CHILDRESS
HARDEMAN
COTTLE
FOARD
COTTON
WICHITA
KING
BAYLOR
ARCHER
TERRY
LYNN
YOUNG
BORDEN
FISHER
JONES
STEPHENS
PALO PINTO
TAYLOR
CALLAHAN
ERATH
COMANCHE
TOM GREEN
SAN SABA
LAMPASAS
BURNET
LLANO
KIMBLE
BLANCO
KERR
HAYS
KENDALL
COMAL

MAP VII. PER CAPITA TAX VALUE

The region's chief natural resource is oil, which is most abundant in the western part, although found to some extent throughout. Farming is inhibited by lack of sufficient water, especially in the west, but irrigation has enabled the "green belt" in the north to produce vegetables. Cotton is a major crop, and pecans are important in the east. Ranching is also a major activity, and a variety of livestock is raised. Not only cattle but also goats, sheep, and hogs are important to the region's economy.

The cities and towns, except for the few larger ones, have apparently been primarily market communities through the years. What manufacturing and processing is to be found is connected with the region's oil, gas, and agricultural products--food processing, natural gas and petroleum companies, clothing and other fabric industries. The recently-established West Central Texas Council of Governments believes that the future economic health of the region it serves depends on its ability to attract more light industry, and is encouraging efforts in that direction. The Council of Governments area comprises 16 counties, all in the general Abilene metropolitan area. Two of these (Eastland and Stephens) are not in the 36-county region under study. (See Map VIII).

A total of 74 new manufacturing businesses, established in the 60's, are listed for the region in the Directory of Texas Manufacturers.[1] The largest single concentration of these new ventures is in the San Angelo area, where 16 are listed. The Abilene area has 11; Brownwood, 6; Sweetwater, 5; Big Spring,

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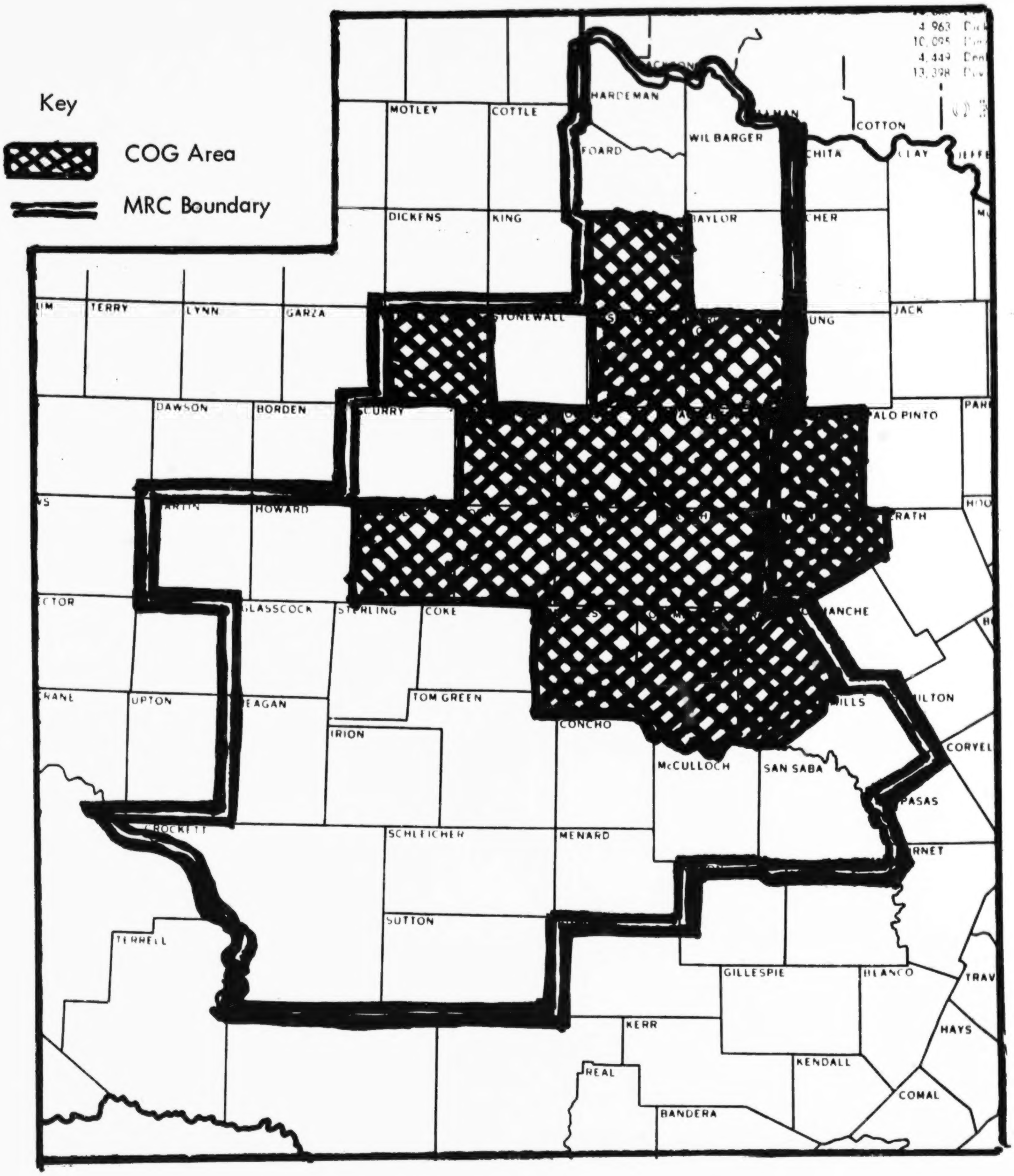
[1] University of Texas. Bureau of Business Research. Directory of Texas Manufacturers, 1967-1968. 19th ed. (Austin: 1967).


Key
COG Area
MRC Boundary
4,963
10,095
4,449
13,398
HARDEMAN
MOTLEY
COTTLE
FOARD
WILBARGER
COTTON
CLAY
DICKENS
KING
BAYLOR
TERRY
LYNN
GARZA
STONEWALL
JACK
DAWSON
BORDEN
SCURRY
PALO PINTO
HOWARD
GLASSCOCK
STERLING
COKE
CRANE
UPTON
TOM GREEN
IRION
CONCHO
McCULLOCH
SAN SABA
CORYELL
CROCKETT
SCHLEICHER
MENARD
SUTTON
TERRELL
GILLESPIE
BLANCO
HAYS
KERR
KENDALL
REAL
COMAL
BANDERA

MAP VIII. AREA SERVED BY THE WEST CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Snyder, San Saba, and Vernon, 3 each. Most of these companies are small ones employing less than 25 persons. There are, however, several considerably larger companies among the newcomers--Master Corporation of Texas in Abilene, a woman's clothing plant in Stamford, Loadcraft in Brady, an M&M subsidiary and a woolen mill and blanket manufacturing company in Brownwood, a surgical instrument manufacturer, a branch of Levi Strauss, and a mohair company in San Angelo, and a shirt company in Sweetwater. Each of these relatively new industries employed over 100 persons, some considerably more. There appears, therefore, to be some increase in manufacturing in the region, especially in the San Angelo and Abilene areas.[1]

Long-established plants are also found, chiefly in the cities, but scattered fairly widely throughout the region. Abilene has the highest total of listings in the directory, with 90; San Angelo has 79; Brownwood, 46; Big Spring, 31; Sweetwater, 30; Vernon, 22; Snyder, 16. Largest employers in the region are a watch manufacturer in Abilene and an oil and chemical company in Big Spring, each of which is listed as employing over 500 persons. Other older plants employing over 100 are to be found in Abilene (foods, feeds); Hardeman County (gypsum); Brady (wool processing); Coleman (clothing); Colorado City (oil refining); Nolan County (cement); Quanah (cotton oil); Rotan (gypsum); San Angelo (footwear, dairy products, tiles, architectural millwork); Sweetwater (gypsum, cotton oil); Vernon (clothing).

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[1] In the COG Region, "Brown and Taylor Counties registered the largest actual increase in the number of manufacturing establishments between 1954 and 1963." Regional Data Book, 1968, p. 3.

Thus, while at present ranching, farming, and oil occupy first place in the region's economy, there are signs that new industry is, indeed, entering the region to provide some diversification of sources of income. It is too much to expect that these changes will reverse the downward trend in population which has occurred in the region as a whole and in many of its counties in particular. The trend from rural to urban areas is, of course, nationwide and its causes are complex. But while diversification and the resulting economic stability are unlikely to increase the region's rural population, they should, if the movement is successful, increase the population of the larger cities and perhaps also that of some of the smaller ones.

## Size of Government Units

As might be expected, a region with 36 counties, a large area, and a low population density has relatively small government units. Looking at counties only, we find only four with populations of over 20,000, or 11% of the 36 counties. In Texas as a whole, 35% of the counties, a total of 89, are in the 20,000 and over population range. (Map II).

| Counties with over 20,000[1] | |
|---|---|
| Taylor | 111,520 |
| Tom Green | 75,710 |
| Howard | 40,150 |
| Brown | 27,859 |

| Counties with 10,000-20,000 | |
|---|---|
| Jones | 19,892 |
| Wilbarger | 17,839 |
| Nolan | 17,334 |
| Scurry | 15,496 |
| Runnels | 13,409 |
| Coleman | 11,985 |
| Mitchell | 11,171 |
| Haskell | 10,290 |

---

[1] Populations are 1966 estimates from Texas Public Library Statistics.

The eight counties with 10,000-20,000 population represented 22.2% of the total counties of the region; in the state as a whole, the 68 in this population range constitute 26.8%. On the other hand, counties with low populations occur here more frequently than elsewhere in Texas:

Counties with 5,000-10,000

| | |
|---|---|
| Callahan | 9,548 |
| McCulloch | 8,972 |
| Fisher | 8,057 |
| Hardeman | 7,871 |
| Knox | 7,375 |
| San Saba | 7,046 |
| Baylor | 6,091 |
| Martin | 5,131 |

22.2% of the region's counties
Texas has 47 (18.5%)

Counties with 3,000-5,000

| | |
|---|---|
| Crockett | 4,797 |
| Mills | 4,508 |
| Concho | 3,918 |
| Sutton | 3,800 |
| Shackelford | 3,633 |
| Coke | 3,504 |
| Reagan | 3,136 |
| Menard | 3,054 |

22.2% of the region's counties
Texas has 25 (9.8%)

Counties with under 3,000

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Schleicher | 2,842 | Kent | 1,767 |
| Stonewall | 2,828 | Glasscock | 1,212 |
| Foard | 2,754 | Irion | 1,153 |
| Throckmorton | 2,735 | Sterling | 1,098 |

22.2% of the region's counties
Texas has 25 (9.8%)

Thus, we find that the region not only conforms to the normal Texas pattern of counties rather small in area, but goes beyond the pattern of the state in small county populations.[1] Except for the two metropolitan cities of Abilene and San

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[1] In area, the trans-Pecos counties of Texas are more like those found in the western and southwestern portions of the United States, where very large counties (in area) are the rule. The rest of the state follows the pattern of the South, where small counties tend to occur.

Angelo, the incorporated areas of the region are also small in population. A number are fairly large for the region, but not by state or national standards.

## Summary

Comparing the data about the region with those criteria previously noted as ideal for good library service, then, we find the following:

| | Ideal | The Region |
|---|---|---|
| Population | 150,000-300,000 + | 479,555 |
| Density | Dense | Sparse |
| Access | Easy | Not too difficult<br>Good, direct roads<br>Few natural barriers<br>Few weather problems<br>Distances not great |
| Education | High level | Medium |
| Economy | Substantial<br>Stable | Fair to good; well over poverty level<br>Not yet diversified<br>Depends heavily on oil, ranching, farming<br>Light industry moving in |
| Government | One jurisdiction or only a few | 36 counties, 24 of which have less than 10,000 population |

Of the factors noted, the only serious obstacle to good library service is the last, the number and size of the governments in the region. Because of the many fixed costs in any library with pretentions to adequacy, small populations cannot usually support such service, individually and without help, except at great sacrifice. The per capita cost of even mediocre service in small units is high; unfortunately, the limited library services and collections small governments usually provide offer little incentive to make a special effort.

West Central Texas is not, however, by any means the only region in the United States to encounter this problem. Compared with some parts of some states, the 36-county region offers a highly favorable environment for public library development. The future lies not in continuation of the small, isolated,independent, and inadequate units, but rather in the inclusion of those units in a cooperative library effort which maintains local control and locally-oriented service but at the same time commands resources beyond the ability of the small local library to provide alone.

## II. THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES: FINANCE

There are, in the 36 counties of the region, 35 more-or-less public libraries. Whether they are truly 'public' depends on one's definition. Not all meet two criteria commonly used to define a public library, namely: (1) public funds constituting the chief means of financial support, and (2) free access by the public at large to all services.

Many of the libraries in the region are following a pattern of change which is reminiscent of the history of the public library in the older parts of the nation. Briefly, the pattern has been as follows: a private (membership) library, originally restricted to the founders and their families, later opens its doors to all who wish to pay the subscription, and later still turns its assets and the control of the library over to a government jurisdiction which henceforth supports it with public funds and makes its services available to the public at large. In the region, there are libraries at each of the stages noted.

When a library is turned over to a government, however, there are often vestiges of its earlier status, especially in the case of former club libraries. Therefore, in addition to membership libraries and publicly owned and governed libraries, we find a number of libraries in the region in a transitional stage. The government may provide quarters and pay the salary of an employee, but it will expect the club to continue to pay for the books. In such situations, club personnel frequently continues to select the books. The new board of trustees, required by law when a public library is legally established, is frequently chosen from the club which formerly operated the old library. These characteristics may be accepted without question, because of the traditional relationship of the club with the library and its service; the facts that they are inconsistent in themselves, that they tend to freeze the collections and services of the library into an old pattern already established, rather than expanding them to enable it to meet the new responsibilities it should undertake as a publicly-supported agency, may go unrecognized.

## Public Support -- County Funds

In the following section we shall consider only public support for libraries. Income derived from club dues and fund-raising activities of various types will not be included. Such income is a welcome addition to a regular budget from public funds which provides for salaries, books and other materials, equipment, utilities, etc. But when private contributions are expected and planned for, when the public budget omits vital segments of library operation with the understanding that private sources will fill the need, the library is not a full-fledged public library. The government's responsibility, in such a situation, has been only partly discharged, although that fact may be obscured. Here, we shall look, therefore, at government support.

In Texas as a whole, the rural area of most counties is served by a municipal library; the county government contracts with the city for library service. This pattern exists in the region, but is not the arrangement most commonly found. Thirteen of the libraries receive all their public support from county funds, and in 9 more the county provides half or more of the public income. In only four, including, however, two of the largest, is the county contribution less than half, and only two libraries in the region receive all their public funds from city or town sources.

## Table II: COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

COUNTIES SUPPORTING LIBRARIES COMPLETELY, 1967

| County | Public Support, 1967 | Per Capita |
|---|---|---|
| Baylor | $ 3,800 | $ .62 |
| Haskell | 700 | .07 |
| Howard | 18,000 | .45 |
| Irion | 200 | .17 |
| Kent | 2,575 | 1.46 |
| Knox | 480 | .07 |
| Martin | 2,866 | .56 |
| Mitchell | 13,880 | 1.24 |
| Reagan | 3,600 | 1.15 |
| San Saba | 300 | .04 |
| Schleicher | 2,392 | .84 |
| Scurry | 48,046 | 3.10 |
| Stonewall | 1,000 | .35 |

COUNTIES PROVIDING HALF OR MORE OF SUPPORT, 1967

| County | County Share | City Share |
|---|---|---|
| Callahan | $ 762 | $ 438 |
| McCulloch | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Menard | 900 | 480 |
| Mills | 635 | 500 |
| Nolan | 17,000 | 6,000 |
| Runnels | 900 | 900* |
| Shackelford | 1,400 | 900 |
| Tom Green | 77,785 | 20,000 |
| Wilbarger | 4,200 | 3,900 |

*Runnels County's support was shared in 1967 by the libraries of Ballinger and Winters. Ballinger contributed $900 to its library, Winters made no public contribution.

COUNTIES PROVIDING LESS THAN HALF OF SUPPORT, 1967

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brown | $ 1,200 | $ 18,716 |
| Foard | 162 | 1,200 |
| Hardeman | 2,000 | 2,340 |
| Taylor | 8,000* | 164,875 |

*Paid by Taylor County to Abilene under contract to serve the unincorporated area.

Of the 36 counties, 26 have been listed above. Of the other ten, four have no public libraries, even of the 'private' club variety; these are Coke, Fisher, Glasscock, and Throckmorton. One county, Sterling, has a county library with quarters in the Court House, attended to by the County Treasurer. While the county therefore makes some contribution to library service, no money is apparently appropriated for the library as such. Two other counties, Concho and Sutton, contain club libraries which receive no public support.

The above figures, like the majority of those included here, give the situation as of 1967, the last year for which complete figures were available at the time of writing. A new library has appeared since that date, in Ozona, toward which Crockett County provides $2,500 annually. This library is unique in the region in that it is a combined school and public library, although this situation is expected to be temporary.

The two remaining counties, Coleman and Jones, are among the larger and richer counties in the region. Neither, in 1967, supported public library service. The Coleman Public Library is at present inactive, because of the illness of its librarian and patroness. Jones County contains three libraries: in Anson (the county seat), Hamlin, and Stamford. None receives financial assistance from the county. Anson's library is a private corporation, Stamford's supported by the city, Hamlin's recently reactivated and opened for service but with little support. The reason advanced by librarians for the failure of the county to support library service is the very existence of the three libraries. A 'county library' is thought of as a building rather than as a service, and county officials are said to be unwilling to support only one of the three. Such a choice would not be necessary; a county library with three outlets would be unusual for the region, but not for the state. Furthermore, other counties give financial assistance to more than one library in a number of instances. (e.g., Upton county supports libraries at McCamey and Rankin.) And in the region itself Runnels County contributes to libraries in both Ballinger and Winters.

## Public Support - City Funds

Those cities which contribute in part to public library income have already been indicated, by implication, in the preceding tables. In order of city contribution, they are as follows:

Table III: CITY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

| City | Contribution, 1967 |
|---|---|
| Abilene | $164,875 |
| San Angelo | 20,000 |
| Brownwood | 18,716 |
| Sweetwater | 6,000 |
| Vernon | 3,900 |
| Brady | 3,500 |
| Quanah | 2,340 |
| Crowell | 1,200 |
| Albany | 900 |
| Ballinger | 900 |
| Goldthwaite | 500 |
| Menard | 480 |
| Baird | 438 |

Two libraries receive their only public support from municipal funds. Stamford, already mentioned, provided in 1967 $7,295. The other, Santa Anna, is at present the only operating library in Coleman County. The very small subsidy it receives from the city does not allow it to give free service. In general, cities and towns in the region (with the notable exceptions already mentioned) do not contribute to the support of their public libraries. The following cities, in which public or semi-public libraries are located, do not contribute to library income:

Anson
Aspermont
Big Lake
Big Spring
Colorado City
Eden
Eldorado
Hamlin
Haskell
Jayton
Mertzon
Munday
Ozona
San Saba
Seymour
Snyder
Sonora
Stanton
Sterling City
Winters

There may be, and undoubtedly are in some cases, excellent reasons for the failure of one or the other of the two jurisdictions (i.e., city and county) to help support the library. In a good many of the counties of the region, the majority of the citizens live within the limits of the county seat; in such counties, the same taxpayers, to a great extent, support both governments. Where both jurisdictions contribute, city dwellers may contribute more. Nevertheless, these considerations--the entire question of which jurisdiction should support the library, and how to divide support when both share--are at this time minor. In many cases, the sums paid are extremely small, and the libraries scarcely able to perform token service. Under these circumstances, library support from both governments appears desirable, in amounts based on population distribution.

## Public Support - Comparison with Other States

The 36-county region as a whole spent, in 1967, $1.03 for public library service on a per capita basis. This was about twenty cents lower than the state average. As compared with the other states selected for comparison, the regional support is also low, as follows:

Table IV: EXPENDITURES PER CAPITA FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 1967: COMPARISON WITH SELECTED STATES

| State | Expenditures per capita for public libraries |
|---|---|
| Alaska | $ 1.01 |
| Idaho | 1.56 |
| Nevada | 1.92 |
| New Hampshire | 2.72 |
| New Mexico | 1.94 |
| North Dakota | 2.26 |
| South Dakota | 2.40 |
| Utah | 3.14 |
| Wyoming | 2.69 |
| TEXAS (ENTIRE STATE) | 1.23 |
| THE 36-COUNTY REGION | 1.03 |

Note: As was stated in the Preface, these comparisons are offered not as exact statistical measures, but merely as rough indications. The surveyor recognizes that many variations may enter into the above figures.

## Public Support and Economic Factors

Taking into account total public income for the library service in each county, whether from city or county sources, we still find a puzzling discrepancy, in a good many cases, between the effort made and the general economic condition of the counties. For example, we have already noted that Jones County, one of the larger ones, does not contribute. Fisher County, with no public library, is by no means a poor county. Haskell County's contribution seems far too small for its size and general importance.

It is possible, in the rapidly changing library situation of the region, that some of the cities or counties, or both, have materially increased their appropriations since the 1967 statistics used for this section. The figures in the following table must, therefore, be recognized as referring only to that year's situation. (Table V.)

The table provides figures for comparing what a county (all jurisdictions) pays in support of its public library services, on the one hand, with its ability to pay as reflected in various indices of economic condition, on the other. The economic indices included are total assessed valuation, per capita valuation, state valuation--i.e., the basis on which state taxes are calculated--total income, per capita income, and the State Board of Education's economic index reflecting the ratio of a county's economy to the state's total economy.[1]

The figures given in the table are rankings. In the library support columns, the lowest numerical rank is 28, since eight of the counties provide no public library support. Those marked "None" in the support columns would, of course, be at the bottom of the list. The second set of columns shows rank in total population and population density. Here, of course, 36 is the lowest rank, and the two figures are very closely related. All the columns relating to economic indices show the rank of the 36 counties; the last column, headed "Economic

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[1] All figures are based on those in Texas Public Library Statistics and the Texas Almanac except the state valuation column, which is based on tables issued by the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts for the State of Texas, entitled Assessed Value of Each County for 1967.

Index" is based on a composite figure which no doubt reflects some of the factors in other columns. This column, it should be noted, gives rankings for a ratio.

While the significance for library support of the various indices is by no means clear in every case, there are some facts which stand out. First, the counties without public library support are by no means always the poorest by any standard. Fisher County, in particular, stands about in the middle on most of the factors; its lack of a library is surprising. Coke County is also well above many others in ability to support a library, yet it has none. Among those counties whose library support appears low, in relationship with their ability to support one, Coleman, Haskell, Howard, and Runnels counties may be noted.

Table V: PUBLIC SUPPORT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES AS RELATED TO INDICES OF COUNTY ABILITY TO PAY, 1967

| County | Rank in Library Support | | Rank in Population | | Rank in Tax Valuation | | | Rank in Income | | Rank in Economic Index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Per cap. | Total | Density | Tot. | Per cap. | State | Tot. | Per cap. | |
| Baylor | 12 | 12 | 19 | 18 | 25 | 18 | 26 | 20 | 25 | 23 |
| Brown | 5 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 35 | 14 | 4 | 21 | 14 |
| Callahan | 21 | 23 | 13 | 13 | 24 | 31 | 22 | 14 | 30 | 25 |
| Coke | None | None | 26 | 25 | 15 | 7 | 13 | 25 | 15 | 11 |
| Coleman | 28 | 28 | 10 | 14 | 17 | 28 | 19 | 10 | 27 | 17 |
| Concho | None | None | 23 | 24 | 28 | 14 | 31 | 32 | 35 | 30 |
| Crockett | None | None | 21 | 33 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 19 | 9 | 9 |
| Fisher | None | None | 15 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 29 | 8 |
| Foard | 20 | 15 | 31 | 22 | 33 | 15 | 33 | 29 | 18 | 31 |
| Glasscock | None | None | 34 | 34 | 29 | 4 | 28 | 35 | 2 | 28 |
| Hardeman | 11 | 14 | 16 | 12 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 13 | 20 | 19 |
| Haskell | 24 | 25 | 12 | 11 | 16 | 22 | 16 | 12 | 28 | 13 |
| Howard | 6 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Irion | 27 | 22 | 35 | 36 | 34 | 10 | 34 | 36 | 11 | 35 |
| Jones | 9 | 19 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 30 | 11 | 7 | 24 | 7 |

Table V: (Cont.)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent | 16 | 4 | 33 | 32 | 14 | 1 | 12 | 33 | 14 | 9 |
| Knox | 25 | 25 | 17 | 16 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 18 | 31 | 21 |
| Martin | 15 | 13 | 20 | 21 | 27 | 19 | 25 | 15 | 3 | 19 |
| McCulloch | 10 | 9 | 14 | 17 | 22 | 27 | 24 | 17 | 33 | 27 |
| Menard | 19 | 16 | 28 | 26 | 36 | 26 | 35 | 31 | 23 | 36 |
| Mills | 22 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 35 | 33 | 36 | 28 | 36 | 33 |
| Mitchell | 7 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 17 | 9 | 11 | 26 | 18 |
| Nolan | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 7 | 6 | 16 | 5 |
| Reagan | 13 | 7 | 27 | 29 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 24 | 5 | 15 |
| Runnels | 18 | 23 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 25 | 15 | 9 | 32 | 12 |
| San Saba | 26 | 27 | 18 | 19 | 30 | 32 | 29 | 21 | 34 | 29 |
| Schleicher | 14 | 8 | 29 | 31 | 19 | 9 | 17 | 27 | 13 | 21 |
| Scurry | 3 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Shackelford | 17 | 11 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 12 | 21 | 23 | 10 | 24 |
| Sterling | None | None | 36 | 35 | 32 | 2 | 30 | 34 | 1 | 34 |

Table V: (Cont.)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stonewall | 23 | 20 | 30 | 27 | 18 | 8 | 18 | 26 | 8 | 16 |
| Sutton | None | None | 24 | 30 | 31 | 16 | 32 | 22 | 7 | 32 |
| Taylor | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 36 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 2 |
| Throckmorton | None | None | 32 | 28 | 26 | 11 | 27 | 30 | 17 | 26 |
| Tom Green | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 34 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 4 |
| Wilbarger | 8 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 8 | 8 | 22 | 6 |

## III. THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TEXAS STANDARDS

In 1964, a subcommittee of the Texas Library Association's Library Development Committee presented for adoption a set of "Standards for Texas Public Libraries,"[1] following closely the standards then officially sponsored by the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association,[2] and recommended by the subcommittee for libraries serving 50,000 + Texans. Since there are only two public libraries in the region to which the standards would apply, namely those of Abilene and Tom Green County, we need another yardstick for measuring the effectiveness of the majority of the region's libraries. The original recommendation of the subcommittee was that such smaller public libraries should use another ALA publication, Interim Standards for Small Public Libraries.[3] In addition, a new subcommittee prepared a statement to supplement the Standards, entitled "Guidelines for Measuring Progress," in recognition of the fact that the standards themselves were of little use to the majority of public libraries of the state in measuring their needs and their progress.[4]

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[1] Texas Library Journal, Spring, 1964, pp. 30-33.

[2] American Library Association. Public Libraries Division. Public Library Service: A Guide to Evaluation with Minimum Standards. (Chicago: ALA, 1956). These standards are now superseded by American Library Association. Public Library Association. Minimum Standards for Public Library Systems, 1966. (Chicago: ALA, 1967).

[3] American Library Association. Public Library Association. Interim Standards for Small Public Libraries: Guidelines Toward Achieving the Goals of Public Library Service. (Chicago: ALA, 1962).

[4] Texas Library Journal, Spring, 1965, pp. 24-27.

The relationships of these standards and guidelines to each other, and to the libraries themselves must be clearly understood before we can consider how they apply to the libraries of the region. It might be supposed that large libraries would use the basic standards to measure their accomplishments, and small libraries either the Interim Standards or the Guidelines. In other words, the same yardstick, it would be assumed, could not be applied to libraries of different sizes.

To some extent that statement is true, as the existence of differing standards indicates. But in a larger sense BOTH sets of standards apply to small public libraries. Since 1956, when ALA's Public Library Service was issued, the profession has recognized no substitute in public library service for a wide range of library materials (including books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials) as well as a staff with specialized skills in service to age-groups, in administration, in reference and information services. Recognizing that such service could not be supported by the small community alone, the standards recommended the cooperation of libraries of all sizes, so that jointly they could command the resources of materials and personnel to give the services prescribed. The underlying principle behind these recommendations was the conviction that the educational and informational needs of people do not differ in proportion to the size of the communities in which they live. An individual in a rural community may need specialized information or wish to read an unusual book; his library, if supported locally, is almost sure to be too small to contain either. The standards for libraries serving large populations, therefore, apply to the region as a whole.

It is because the small unit cannot support quality service that this Report earlier noted the existence of a number of small government jurisdictions as the major difficulty in the development of good library service in the region. And it is for these reasons that the Texas Library Association, through its Library Development Committee and its standards, and the Texas State Library through its statewide program, are concerned with both the cooperative system (represented in the region by service of the Abilene MRC and the Area Libraries in San Angelo and Brownwood)[1] and the local community library. For in a cooperative system, each must play its part. While the local library may look to Abilene or beyond for specialized materials, it should provide locally resources which are within its own power to provide, and which are frequently needed. The purpose of the system is not to provide a free ride for the community library, but to extend its scope beyond what a reasonable local effort can be expected to support. What a reasonable effort is, and what it ought to provide, is the substance of the Interim Standards and that part of the Guidelines which deals with local libraries.

Since the next chapter will look at the collections of the public libraries of the region, we shall defer a consideration of the parts of the standards which consider materials. Turning to other sections of the Guidelines, we find the following:

I-B-1 "Total operating income: A minimum of $10,000 or $2 per capita, whichever is greater." (p. 25)

Even including the larger libraries, which are not intended to be covered by this standard, only one library in the region meets it. Seven public libraries have over $10,000 in income, but only the Scurry County Library has over $2 per capita. The standard goes on to recommend that:

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[1] See the Chapter on the State Library Program for an explanation of the functions of each type of library in the cooperative system.

> "Local libraries having income less than $10,000 should contract for library service and not attempt to operate as independent units." (p. 25).

This standard may mean the type of contract now in force between the community libraries of the region, the Area Libraries, and the MRC. If it means total consolidation, it would wipe out most of the public libraries of the region, and would have to be modified to take into account the realities of the local situation.

I-C-2- b and c. These standards have to do with qualifications of personnel, also to be covered in the Chapter having to do with collections. The recommendations conclude, however, with the following:

> "Local libraries should not employ a professional librarian until they can afford to employ, in addition, two non-professionals, and to maintain an income of at least $25,000 per year."

> "Libraries with incomes of less than $25,000 per year should contract for regular advisory service to cover book selection, planning future library development, selecting library equipment, recommending library policies and procedures to the Board for consideration, etc." (p. 25).

While agreements exist between local libraries, Area Libraries, and the MRC, little actual regular and formal advisory service is requested or given. The contracts in existence cover only lending materials, to be discussed in the chapter on the State program.

III-A-1 "Every library should operate under a legal ordinance or charter." (p. 26). It appears that some of the libraries are informally organized. Because of their beginnings as club libraries, and the gradual and partial assumption of responsibility by government, some have not been officially established.

III-A-2 "Every library should have the advice of a Library Board (whether governing or advisory)." (p. 26)

Some libraries in the region are without Boards of either type.

III-A-3 "Every library should receive a minimum of 75% of its operating income from the governing body." (p. 26).

In 1967, according to published statistics, five of the libraries in the region which received some public support received less than 75%. These were: Callahan County; Menard, Munday, Hardeman County, and San Saba County. In addition, Hamlin and Sterling County libraries, assumed to be publicly supported, reported no public income. Crockett County's new library (not reporting for 1967) receives a sizable Foundation gift during its first five years, placing it in the category of libraries receiving less than 75% of income from public funds. And, of course, the libraries of Anson, Eden, Sonora, and Winters -- all private libraries -- receive all or most of their income from non-public sources. The other 22 public libraries, according to published reports, meet the standard.. In one or two cases, however, it appears that only public income was reported by some libraries presumed to have a good deal of additional support. For example, the Jennie Trent Dew Library in Goldthwaite lists only its income from public sources, although it does receive additional support; and the Santa Anna Public Library, which charges a fee, lists only public income.

From the Interim Standards come the following standards for libraries serving less than 50,000 persons:

I-A-1 "Every individual should have free library service available in his local community." (p. 3).

Failing to meet this standard are the counties of Coke, Fisher, Glasscock and Throckmorton, which offer no library service; also those libraries in the region which still charge a fee, such as those at Santa Anna and Winters.

I-A-6 "The local library, no matter how small, should have a permanent paid staff." (p. 3)

The Eden Public Library is staffed by volunteers, as is the Anson Public Library, whose volunteer librarian works 24 hours a week. The Sterling County Library is in charge of a county official, whose salary may or may not be augmented because of the library responsibilities assumed.

I-E-4 "The library should have full opportunity and regular channels for presenting its financial and other needs to the government which maintains it." (p. 3).

A number of libraries, including some of the larger ones, do not present a budget to the governing authority, either through their Boards or through the librarians. In these cases, the fiscal official informs the library of its budget allocation.

I-G-2 "The library board should appoint a librarian as chief administrator with full responsibility for services, book selection, personnel management, and physical facilities. The board should refrain from active management of the library." (p. 4).

In a number of the newer and smaller libraries, and in a few of the larger ones, the club still manages the library and constitutes the board, either officially or unofficially. Club members select the books. There is, in reality, no librarian, but an attendant employed to keep the library open and charge out the books.

The standards for library buildings and quarters will not be quoted here, since they are met by only a handful of libraries. One of the major libraries in the region, the Tom Green County Library, urgently needs a new building, not only becuase the present one is too small and nonfunctional, but especially because it is no longer (due to movement of population, presumably) located, as it should be, in a busy part of town to which people come frequently for business, shopping, etc. It is extremely hard to find,[1] and should, while it remains in its present location, be publicized by signs on the nearest main streets, e.g., "Public Library, 3 blocks North ⟶ ".

Other libraries in the region are also poorly located, and hard to identify. It is easy to assume that everyone in town knows where the library is, and thus fail to realize that a sign on the building itself, as well as one (if necessary) on the main shopping street near the library, will remind people of the library's presence, as well as inform some of its existence.

Housing for many of the county libraries is provided in the Court House. From a library point of view, such a location is not always a good one, although situations differ. Two Court House libraries appeared to be well located and housed--Baylor County's beautiful and beautifully-furnished new library with its ample expansion space and its well-marked outside entrance, and Reagan County's pleasant quarters in a separate annex building with its own entrance at sidewalk level.

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[1] The surveyor visited the library four or five times during the survey period, and each time had trouble finding it.

Some of the county libraries are on second or third floors of the court houses, with no indication outside the building, or even in a directory at the entrance, that there is a library in the building. Since the average citizen has business in the Court House only occasionally, there is little to remind him of the library's existence, and what the county invests on library support is not utilized to the fullest by its residents.

Some Court House libraries are bursting at the seams and need more space. If it is at all possible, new space should be sought outside, in a storefront type of building with entrance at sidewalk level, with windows through which the passerby can see the books and library activity within, and with a sign large enough to be read from a passing vehicle. The libraries at Winters and Anson, both small, are good examples of the type suggested, where a regularly planned and constructed library building is not economically feasible.

A few libraries in the region are still housed in private homes. One or two of these, on the edge of town, are most unfortunate, both as to location and quarters. Only the most eager reader, or the most desperate searcher for information, will seek them out. Until more appropriate housing and location can be found, these libraries urgently need to be identified by large and noticeable signs.

In sum, the region's public libraries, taken individually, tend to fall below standards, whether we compare them with the Texas or national criteria. Separately, most are too small, in income and in potential user population, to expect otherwise. In the next chapters, we shall look at their collections and services, and see how these, too, are affected by the prevailing small library unit of the region.

# IV. PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

In considering the book resources of the public libraries of the region, we must ask the following questions:

1. Quantitatively, how many books are available?
2. How do these quantities compare with national and state standards?
3. What sums of money are available, on an annual basis, for regular building of book collections?
4. Qualitatively, how do library resources compare with standard lists and assumed current information needs?
5. What are the qualifications of the people selecting the books for the various public libraries?

## Number of Volumes Available

According to the 1967 statistics, the total number of volumes in the region's public libraries numbered 485,777, or approximately 1.04 per capita. Compared with other selected states, this figure for the area as a whole is low:

Table VI: VOLUMES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES: COMPARISON WITH SELECTED STATES

| State | Vols. in Public Libs. | Vols. per capita |
|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 348,570 | 1.27 |
| Idaho | 993,558 | 1.49 |
| Nevada | 401,928 | .809 |
| New Hampshire | 2,514,913 | 4.1 |
| New Mexico | 916,885 | 1.607 |
| North Dakota | 808,246 | 1.28 |
| South Dakota | 1,202,777 | 2.7 |
| Utah | 2,338,760 | 2.68 |
| Wyoming | 906,041 | 2.7 |
| THIRTY-SIX CO. REGION | 485,777 | 1.04 |

## Comparison with Standards

Looking at the individual libraries' volume of holdings, we find that, as in the previous chapter, the smaller libraries are evaluated by the ALA Interim Standards, and by the TLA Guidelines. The former divides the libraries considered (those serving under 50,000 population) into two population groups for the purpose of setting standards for number of volumes held, those serving from 5,000 to 50,000 and those serving less than 5,000. For the first group the standard requires a minimum of two books per capita. The holdings of the actual libraries in this category are as follows:

Table VII: PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLDINGS: LIBRARIES SERVING 5,000-50,000

| Library | Population | Volumes | Vols. per capita |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ballinger | 7,912 | 7,377 | .93 |
| Baylor Co. | 6,091 | 8,017 | 1.31 |
| Brady | 8,972 | 13,312 | 1.48 |
| Brownwood | 27,859 | 35,640 | 1.28 |
| Callahan Co. | 9,548 | 9,511 | .99 |
| Hamlin | 6,886 | N.A. | |
| Hardeman Co. | 7,871 | 8,086 | 1.03 |
| Haskell Co. | 10,290 | 3,121 | .3 |
| Howard Co. | 40,150 | 20,495 | .51 |
| Martin Co. | 5,131 | 3,862 | .75 |
| Mitchell Co. | 11,171 | 21,143 | 1.89 |
| Munday | 7,375 | 4,210 | .56 |
| San Saba Co. | 7,046 | 19,887 | 2.82 |
| Scurry Co. | 15,496 | 49,060 | 3.16 |
| Stamford | 8,997 | 5,314 | .59 |
| Sweetwater | 17,334 | 25,807 | 1.48 |
| Vernon | 17,839 | 22,976 | 1.28 |
| Winters | 5,497 | 6,337 | 1.15 |

Note: Above, and in Tables to follow, locations rather than official titles of libraries will be used when these differ from the name of city or county. For example, "Sweetwater" rather than "County-City Library," "Vernon" rather than "Carnegie City-County Library," and "Brady" rather than "F.M. (Buck) Richards Memorial Library."

Only two of the libraries meet the standard of two volumes per capita, although another is very close to that figure. On the other hand, several fall far below even one volume per capita. Included here are two libraries serving populations of over 10,000.

When we look at the 15 smaller libraries, we find most of them far below the standard which states that communities up to 5,000 persons need access to a minimum of 10,000 volumes, or 3 books per capita, whichever is greater:

Table VIII: PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLDINGS: LIBRARIES SERVING UNDER 5,000

| Library | Population | Volumes | Vols. per capita |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anson | 4,099 | 3,094 | .75 |
| Crockett Co. | 4,797 | N.A. | |
| Eden | 1,420 | 3,425 | 2.4 |
| Eldorado | 2,842 | 6,836 | 2.4 |
| Foard Co. | 2,754 | N.A. | |
| Goldthwaite | 4,508 | 6,767 | 1.5 |
| Irion Co. | 1,153 | 2,518 | 2.18 |
| Kent Co. | 1,767 | 3,985 | 2.25 |
| Menard | 3,034 | N.A. | |
| Reagan Co. | 3,136 | 5,874 | 1.87 |
| Santa Anna | 1,300 | 2,425 | 1.86 |
| Shackelford Co. | 3,633 | 4,248 | 1.17 |
| Sonora | 2,995 | 7,000 (est?) | 2.33 |
| Sterling Co. | 1,098 | 1,720 | 1.56 |
| Stonewall Co. | 2,828 | N.A. | |

Obviously, none of the libraries meets this standard.

The Guidelines recommend a lower standard for all local libraries, a minimum of 10,000 volumes or one volume per capita, whichever is greater. This standard is met by several of the libraries in the region: Brady, Brownwood, Mitchell County, San Saba County, Scurry County, Sweetwater, and Vernon. A number of the smaller libraries have one volume or more per capita, but have not yet reached a total of 10,000. The only library with over 10,000 volumes but less than one per capita is that of Howard County. Here, there is a serious space problem, and until new quarters are found the library cannot house more books.

It is natural for those in smaller communities, with smaller collections, to assume that the larger collections, such as those at Abilene and San Angelo, are superior in every way. They are, indeed, superior in coverage to the small ones, but neither of these two largest public libraries in the region meets the standards for libraries of its size. Libraries serving from 50,000 to 100,000 (e.g. Tom Green County) should, according to the Texas Library Association, have 2 volumes per capita; those serving 100,000-200,000 (Abilene) should have 1.7 per capita. Actual holdings are as follows:

| | Population | Holdings | Per Capita |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abilene | 111,520 | 88,983 | .79 |
| Tom Green | 75,710 | 84,747 | 1.12 |

## Current Book Expenditures

It is important, in evaluating library collections, to avoid giving too much attention to mere number of volumes. Inevitably, standards must make use of such figures, but, taken alone, they can be extremely misleading. The library which fails to keep its collection up-to-date by regular weeding (also called for in both sets of standards) will have an accumulation of older books, and may show up well in a comparison of volumes available. If such a library does not continue to add new books, it is a poor library despite the size of its collection. The same commentary applies to libraries which add many gift volumes, when these are also old and of little current interest.

One way of attempting to discover how well a collection is being kept up, therefore, is to check its annual acquisitions and its current book expenditures. The meaning of the sums of money involved, in terms of purchasing power, will be clearer when we bear in mind that, in 1967, the list price of the average book of fiction was $4.80, science book, $12.15, and children's book, $3.41.[1]

The _Guidelines_ recommend a minimum of 500 volumes to be added each year, or one volume for each 10 persons living in the area served, whichever is greater. None of the smaller libraries meets this standard, but a few of the larger ones do: Hardeman Co., San Saba Co., Mitchell Co., Scurry Co., Sweetwater.

The Texas standards for libraries serving over 50,000 population require the annual addition of one volume for every five persons in the service area. Neither of the larger libraries in the region meets this standard.

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[1] _The Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information_, 1968. (New York: Bowker, 1968), p. 103.

## Table IX: ANNUAL MATERIALS EXPENDITURES AND ACQUISITIONS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

| Library | Expenditures, 1967 | | Vols. Added* 1967 | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Books | Periodicals | | |
| **LIBRARIES SERVING UNDER 2,500** | | | | |
| Irion Co. | None | None | 66 | No public funds available for books which are paid for by Study Club. |
| Kent Co. | $1,020 | $8 | 392 | |
| Santa Anna | 30 | None | 35 | No public funds for books. |
| Sterling Co. | None | None | 17 | No book funds. Receives no gift funds. Depends exclusively on gift books. |
| **LIBRARIES SERVING 2,500-5,000** | | | | |
| Anson | $630 | None | 369 | Formerly charged a fee, virtually all of which was used for books. Now depends on gifts of money from users. |
| Crockett Co. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | A new public library, combined temporarily with a high school library. No figures available, but new adult and children's books are being purchased for public library users. |
| Eden | None | None | 125 | No public funds. Receives support from club fund-raising projects. |
| Eldorado | $125 | None | 248 | No public funds for books. Book funds from fines, money gifts, fund-raising projects. |
| Foard Co. | $226 | $36 | 155 | Some book money from donations, especially from club funds. |
| Goldthwaite | $60 | None | 315 | No publicly supplied book funds. Most new books are donations. |

* Figures from Texas Library Statistics, 1967. In some cases, libraries indicated "Titles Added" rather than "Volumes Added." It seems clear that the terms are considered interchangeable in these cases.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Menard | $208 | None | N.A. | Club which founded the library still supplies some books. |
| Reagan Co. | $600 | $13 | 214 | |
| Shackelford Co. | $400 | $36 | 140 | Receives a good many gifts. |
| Sonora | N.A. | N.A. | 130 | No fixed budget. Supported altogether by Club. |
| Stonewall Co. | $100 | None | 105 | |
| LIBRARIES SERVING POPULATIONS OF 5,000-10,000 | | | | |
| Baylor Co. | $733 | $51 | 317 | Club still gives regular support, many gifts. |
| Ballinger | $208 | None | 150 | |
| Brady | $815 | $56 | 824 | Has 200 books on loan from State Library. |
| Callahan Co. | $403 | None | 473 | No regular book money. Receives balance in club treasury at the end of each year. |
| Hamlin | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | Library newly-opened. No book budget; memorial gifts main source. |
| Hardeman Co. | $1,600 | None | 1,497 | Public gifts supplement book money. $1000 from State Library. Uses Abilene supplementary books. |
| Martin Co. | $154 | None | 210 | In 1968, budget raised to $600 for books. Previously, had no regular budget, only gift money. |
| Munday | $231 | None | 48 | |
| San Saba Co. | $694 | None | 815 | Study club raises some book money. County's contribution has recently doubled. |
| Stamford | $1,500 | None | 250 | |
| Winters | $989 | None | 389 | Little public support. Library charges a fee, and receives gifts. |

### LIBRARIES SERVING POPULATIONS OF 10,000-50,000

| Library | Expenditures, 1967 |  | Vols. Added 1967 | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Books | Periodicals |  |  |
| Brownwood | $4,318 | $664 | 1,998 | Has recently been making serious effort to strengthen collections. |
| Haskell Co. | $208 | ?[1] | 124 | Uses supplementary collections from Abilene. |
| Howard Co. | $7,500 | None listed | 1,775 | Has reference book supplement from State Library, supplementary collection from Abilene. Has joined film circuit. |
| Mitchell Co. | $6,909 | $276 | 1,700 | Has recordings, filmstrips, etc. Has had Title I funds from State Library for 2 years. |
| Scurry Co. | $15,330 | $637 | 3,722 | Has recordings, etc. Did not join film circuit. Has not applied for supplementary funds or collections. |
| Sweetwater | $5,058 | $447 | 2,119 |  |
| Vernon | $1,200 | $200 | 873 |  |
| LIBRARIES SERVING POPULATIONS OF OVER 50,000 |  |  |  |  |
| Abilene | $22,543 | $1,883 | 9,680 | Has been adding subject materials in depth since its designation as MRC, with the assistance of supplementary funds from the state, but is still quite a distance below the level expected of a major resource library. |
| Tom Green Co. | $14,903 | $1,419 | 4,683 |  |

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[1] Haskell County's listing in Texas Library Statistics shows $815 for periodicals. This is assumed to be an error.

## Quality of Public Library Collections

Surveyors normally adopt one or both of two methods of checking on the quality and scope of library collections: they check standard lists of books, to determine how many are owned by the library, or they check samplings of comprehensive lists of books recently published on topics of current importance to determine the proportion available.

In view of the limited (or non-existent) book budgets of some of the public libraries in the region, it seemed unnecessary to ask for large-scale checkings of lists. Accordingly, a simple two-part questionnaire was sent to each public library with the request that it be checked. Part I listed a number of subjects of general interest, current importance, or both, and asked the libraries to note how many cards were filed in their catalogs under each; also, how many were for books published since 1960. The second part of the questionnaire consisted of a list of 20 books selected from the American Library Association's list of distinguished books of two decades.[1] This list was compiled from annual lists from the same twenty years, and included those titles felt to be truly distinguished and lasting in importance. In other words, the books the libraries were asked to check for were not necessarily the most popular, nor the best sellers, but rather the quality writings of the two decades. Results of the questionnaire, which was returned by 23 of the 35 libraries, are as follows: Taking first the subject part of the checklist, we find, as might be expected, that the libraries in the largest population group, Abilene and San Angelo, have the most extensive holdings on a number of the topics:

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[1] American Library Association. Lasting books, 1944-64. (Chicago: The Association, 1967).

Table X: HOLDINGS OF THE TWO LARGE LIBRARIES ON SELECTED TOPICS

| Topic | Abilene | | Tom Green Co. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 1960-date | Total | 1960-date |
| Africa | 246 | 148 | 115 | 75 |
| Advertising | 130 | 56 | 177 | 90 |
| Electronics | 225 | 158 | 78 | 58 |
| Personnel Management | 65 | 24 | 71 | 31 |
| Narcotics | 37 | 28 | 27 | 15 |
| Television in Education | 6 | 5 | 17 | 6 |
| Sociology, Urban | 7 | 7 | 36 | 20 |
| Ecumenical Movement | 15 | 13 | 6 | 4 |
| Taxation | 31 | 12 | 61 | 22 |

(It should be noted that the above figures may not precisely indicate the libraries' holdings, since the libraries were asked to include all cards filed under the above headings and any sub-headings; therefore, it is possible that in a few cases, a book may have been counted twice.)

As one might expect, Abilene, the larger library, holds more on many topics than does Tom Green County. An interesting discovery in the above table, however, is the latter's strong showing in a few categories: advertising, personnel management, urban sociology, and taxation. This variation is an advantage for cooperation, since it is desirable that the strengths of the two largest libraries differ slightly.

Moving on to the next size group, libraries serving populations of 10,000-25,000, we have replies from 6 of the 7 libraries. (Mitchell County is not represented in the tabulations below). One library in the group had nothing on the topics listed, or did not check that part of the questionnaire. Below are listed, for each topic, the libraries holding the largest number of titles:

Table XI: HOLDINGS ON SELECTED TOPICS: LEADERS AMONG OTHER LIBRARIES

| Topic | 1st in total held | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|---|---|---|
| Africa | Scurry Co.<br>125 total<br>98 since 1960 | Sweetwater<br>79 total<br>39 since 1960 | Vernon<br>63 total<br>25 since 1960 |
| Advertising | Scurry Co.<br>30 total<br>21 since 1960 | Vernon<br>12 total<br>2 since 1960 | Sweetwater<br>11 total<br>5 since 1960 |
| Electronics | Sweetwater<br>40 total<br>15 since 1960 | Scurry Co.<br>30 total<br>21 since 1960 | Howard Co.<br>21 total<br>9 since 1960 |
| Personnel Management | Vernon<br>13 total<br>3 since 1960 | Scurry Co.<br>10 total<br>4 since 1960 | Sweetwater<br>7 total<br>5 since 1960 |
| Narcotics | Sweetwater<br>27 total<br>14 since 1960 | Scurry Co.<br>22 total<br>20 since 1960 | Vernon<br>9 total<br>4 since 1960 |
| Television in Education | Sweetwater<br>30 total<br>12 since 1960 | Howard Co.<br>12 total<br>1 since 1960 | Vernon<br>2 total<br>1 since 1960 |
| Sociology, Urban | Sweetwater<br>23 total<br>6 since 1960 | Vernon<br>5 total<br>3 since 1960 | All others replying had only one title, published since 1960 |
| Ecumenical Movement | Scurry Co.<br>17 total<br>14 since 1960 | Sweetwater<br>4 total<br>3 since 1960 | Vernon<br>1 total<br>1 since 1960 |
| Taxation | Sweetwater<br>20 total<br>17 since 1960 | Brownwood<br>8 total<br>3 since 1960 | Scurry Co.<br>6 total<br>5 since 1960 |

Conclusions from these tabulations can easily be drawn. Relatively speaking (since none is really strong) Sweetwater and Scurry County are the strongest libraries in these fields. In a few cases, these libraries' holdings are stronger than those of one or both of the two large libraries. The library at Vernon normally ranks second or third. On the other hand, Brownwood and Howard County appear only occasionally in the tabulation. If the questionnaire replies are truly indicative of subject strengths, these libraries, each serving over 20,000 persons and representing the largest communities in this group, need to build more in these and similar subject areas.

In the third group, serving populations of from 5,000-10,000, we find quite a different picture, among the 6 of 11 which replied. The figures are so low that a tabulation seems unnecessary. Hardeman County Library made by far the best showing among the five respondents, with 12 on Africa (11 since 1960); 1 since 1960 on advertising; 14 (11 since 1960) on electronics; 1 since 1960 on personnel management; 4 (3 since 1960) on narcotics; 1 since 1960 on television in education; 3 since 1960 on urban sociology, and none on taxation. Of the others little need be said. The next-best held a total of 16 titles in all the categories combined; the next, 12; the next, 10. Two held only 3 each, in all categories. One reported a deficiency in cataloging which made it impossible to be certain all holdings were listed.

If libraries serving over 5,000 held few books on the subjects listed, little can be expected from those serving smaller populations. Five libraries had no materials on any of the topics. Of the remainder, the libraries of Menard and Anson held the most--16 and 13 respectively on all topics. All of Menard's were published before 1960, but Anson had 5 books on Africa, and one each on advertising and electronics since that date. It appears a safe assumption that libraries in the small population group, as well as most of those serving up to 10,000, do not attempt to provide subject materials on topics such as those listed.

Moving on to the list of notable books included in the questionnaire, we find the following totals for the 23 libraries which responded:

Table XII: HOLDINGS OF SELECTED TITLES

| Author | Title | No. of Libs. Holding |
|---|---|---|
| Bainton, Roland H. | Here I Stand | 5 |
| Barzun, Jacques | The House of Intellect | 1 |
| Berenson, Bernard | The Passionate Sightseer | 2 |
| Burrows, Millar | The Dead Sea Scrolls | 12 |
| Camus, Albert | Resistance, Rebellion, and Death | 2 |
| Caudill, Harry M. | Night Comes to the Cumberlands | 2 |
| Commager, Henry S. | The American Mind | 2 |
| Copland, Aaron | Copland on Music | 4 |
| Djilas, Milovan | The New Class | 4 |
| Fromm, Erich | The Sane Society | 2 |
| Gardner, John W. | Excellence: Can We Be Equal and Excellent Too? | 2 |
| Hammarskjöld, Dag | Markings | 13 |
| Heilbroner, Robert L. | The Worldly Philosophers | 3 |
| Lewis, Oscar | The Children of Sanchez | 4 |
| Malraux, André | The Voices of Silence | 2 |
| Mills, C. Wright | The Power Elite | 2 |
| Mumford, Lewis | The City in History | 4 |
| Russell, Bertrand | A History of Western Philosophy | 4 |
| Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre | The Future of Man | 4 |
| Ward, Barbara | Five Ideas That Changed the World | 3 |

Of the 12 nonrespondents, one is in the over 10,000 population group; four in the 5,000-10,000 category, and the remaining seven serve populations of under 5,000. There is no reason to suppose, from other indications, that they would not fall into the pattern presented by the tabulation above. It appears that most of the public libraries in the region do not attempt to supply books of the sort listed--distinguished, fairly serious books of lasting importance. Where only two libraries are listed as holding a title, the two largest libraries are the holders, since Tom Green County had all 20 of the titles listed, and Abilene 19. After these, Sweetwater with 14, Scurry County with 11, and Brownwood with 9, hold the most. All the other libraries which responded hold 5 or fewer. Five libraries owned none of the books. Included in this category is one county library serving over 10,000 people, which also reported holding nothing on the selected topics listed.

An inevitable conclusion from both halves of the questionnaire is that the cooperative arrangement now under way in the region is a necessity, if even partially adequate service is to be given to a large number of the region's citizens. While it may be unrealistic to expect a small library serving less than 3,000 people to hold many of the distinguished books, or to cover such topics as taxation or urban sociology, it is not at all unlikely that some few of those 3,000 individuals will want to read the distinguished books or need material on one or more of the topics listed. Under the cooperative plan, which will be discussed in the next chapter, the occasional but serious need of the citizen who lives in a small or rural community can be satisfied.

## Who Selects the Region's Books?

In considering the qualifications of the people who select the books for the public libraries of the region, we must first consider what is involved in making good choices. To simplify somewhat, a good public library book selector needs three types of information:

1. Information about the community served. This involves knowing not only about library users, but also about non-users, since the latter may represent a failure to provide materials that would be used and are needed. Community knowledge encompasses an awareness of the information needs of local business and industry, churches, clubs, institutions. It involves an understanding of a community's goals and problems. It includes especially an understanding of the information needs of other government agencies--the public schools, the health and welfare services, the central government, since a good public library provides for these needs as well as for those of the citizen.
2. Information about available library resources. A good selector knows his own collection and how it is used. Where is it weak and where strong? Where is it out of date? What other library resources supplement it? A librarian cannot wisely add books to an existing library without a close acquaintance with the collection to which the additions are being made.
3. Information on what books are available for purchase, and how to judge among them. When any book is selected, especially for a small library with a small budget, other books are automatically not selected. The skillful selector knows not only which books he is buying, but also those

which are available and which he might have bought. In other words, he knows the entire field of books from which he is making a selection. He knows also how to judge books in different fields, not only the generally readable categories like fiction and biography, but also in more complex and specialized fields like technology and the social and behavioral sciences, areas in which judging books requires some knowledge of the subjects and the professional standards of people working in them.

The task of the public librarian in selecting for the library is thus more exacting and difficult than a layman might suppose. A good deal of education is needed, and the librarian who undertakes this important job ought to be a person of standing in the community, with qualifications at least equal to those of a high school teacher serving the same community.

Some readers of this Report will, almost certainly, react to these statements with the reply that their library is too small to attempt to supply the kinds of reading material which requires such skill in selection. To some extent, however, the wise spending of a small book budget requires more skill (or at least more discrimination) than does the expenditure of a large budget. If the citizens of the region, with its many small libraries, are to obtain the best library service their budgets will allow, the book selection should be in the hands of someone with the necessary knowledge and skill, or, as the Guidelines recommend, professional guidance in selection should be available on a regular basis.

The Interim Standards (p. 9) indicate that, in libraries serving populations of under 4,999, there should be one staff member with at least a college education plus some library workshops. The Texas Guidelines also call for a college degree. In the region's public libraries in this size group, we find one librarian with a Master's degree in librarianship from the University of Texas (who doubles as public and school librarian); one Master's degree outside of librarianship; three people with some college training. Ten of the group had no college courses, and five had been able to attend no workshops or library meetings.

As we move into the next larger size group, the standard rises, here requiring a library science degree as part of a four-year college course for librarians in charge of libraries serving from 5,000 to 9,999 persons. Here again the Texas Guidelines require a college degree, plus workshop training. In the region, we find two college graduates, both with some advanced study. One has graduate work in library science, but not yet a Master's degree. In addition, one is halfway through college and two others have some college courses. More than half, however, have been unable to attend workshops and other library meetings.

The libraries serving from 10,000 to 50,000 persons should, according to the standards, have at least one professional librarian with a fifth year degree in library science. In addition, there should be one to two college graduates and a staff of from 6 to 10 persons, if population is under 25,000, or up to 21 staff-members if the population reaches 50,000. In the region, two libraries had one full professional each at the time of the surveyor's visit. One has since resigned. There was, also, a librarian with a college degree and advanced work in other fields. Several of the librarians had a number of college credits, and all but one had some college training. All but one, also, attend workshops and Texas Library Association meetings fairly regularly. The non-college trained librarian and non-attendant at meetings and workshops are the same.

The two largest libraries in the region are under the leadership of professionally qualified directors. Each has had difficulty, however, both in obtaining authorization for sufficient supporting professional staff and in recruiting such staff when authorized. The task of selection, which should be shared with professional staff, may in such circumstances have to be concentrated too much in the hands of an already-busy library director.

To summarize, we find that only the larger libraries in the region (10,000 and over) have sufficient, and sufficiently regular, income to permit them to plan their collection-building to provide more than a somewhat spotty collection of general reading. The resources of even these libraries, in most cases, are insufficient for more than token representation in their collections of some important subjects. A few libraries in each size group stand out as monuments to the efforts of a librarian or the devotion of a club, or both. But it is clear that no librarian, however willing, can build a collection systematically when funds are insufficient and come sporadically without assurance of regularity, and when time for this important function must be found in the busy work schedule of the jack-of-all trades librarian.

## V. PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

To a large extent, the capability of a public library to give service can be forecast from factors we have already considered: materials and staff. A further factor is also important: objectives, or conception of the library's function.

Traditional services given to readers of all ages by public libraries include reader guidance and reference or information service. The two overlap to some extent. The first consists of helping a reader select his books according to his need, and the latter, of finding for him, or assisting him in finding, a specific fact or material on a specific subject. Both services depend heavily on collection and staff. Unless there is a varied collection for reading, and a sizable number of books of fact for reference, the best librarian is limited in giving either service. On the other hand, the librarian's general education and background, knowledge of the contents of the books in the library, and ability to use both in the service of the reader, are also essential. A fine collection serviced by a librarian without interest and knowledge is not used as much as it ought to be.

In addition to the traditional services mentioned, libraries of today offer newer services: film programs, group meetings and discussions of various kinds (play reading, Great Books, etc.). They take services out of the library building to community activities wherever they may be. Librarians give talks, participate in community affairs in order to learn what the library should provide, and to introduce library materials to the groups. Tours of the library by classes, clubs, church groups, and others are often offered, in order to introduce their library to the citizens. For children, there are the traditional story hours and summer reading clubs, along with film or musical programs. Children's librarians work with Scout leaders, teachers, Sunday school personnel, and other community workers who serve children, in order to make sure the library's materials are known and utilized by the community, and to learn what interests should be reflected in the library's collection.

People with special needs in the community are identified, their interests learned, and materials and services provided. A foreign language group, a group of readers handicapped by lack of education or opportunity, a special business or hobby, is taken into account in the library's collection and service.

When we look at the region's libraries, we find, as might be expected, that only the larger ones are equipped to give services of the type noted. The Abilene Public Library gives practically all of them, although its efforts have been hampered by staff turnover and vacancies. It offers a good reference collection and information service, a business department whose resources are growing, and an audiovisual department. Its children's department is well-stocked and heavily used. Through its bookmobile and especially its branch library, it reaches citizens of Abilene close to their homes or work and offers convenient access and service to the minority populations.

The other larger libraries are also equipped, to some degree, to give regular library services. Reference collections are found in most of them, and information service is given. The Tom Green County library, an older library with a tradition of reference service, has quite a good collection. Films are found only in Howard County outside Abilene, and the Howard service is due to a new membership in a film circuit whose resources will be somewhat small until it has been in operation for two or three years. Mitchell County Library has a good collection of recordings, along with slides, filmstrips, etc. Records are found in several libraries, and more could offer recordings if they were willing to accept gifts of the record producers. The larger libraries with permanent staffs also give advisory service to individuals, to some extent.

The Texas State Library's summer reading program for children has been enthusiastically welcomed by the libraries and children of almost every community. This one service is indeed widespread, and is so successful that a number of the smaller libraries are busiest in summer and extend their hours of opening to accommodate the children.

The problem of a too limited conception of the library's function arises especially among the smaller libraries, although some of these are in communities well able to support fuller service. It seems probable that the lack of balance found in the service of these libraries comes as a result of the normal stages of development through which most of the region's public libraries have passed. Since the average library was started by clubwomen, its collection selected by clubwomen, its primary clientele women and children, it is scarcely surprising that the officials and even some of the librarians think of a public library as almost exclusively for women and children.

We have here a vicious circle. Women and children use the library; therefore, what they want is added; therefore, the library's collection appeals to women and children; therefore, women and children are the chief users. Very few men, apparently, make use of some of the region's public libraries, nor would they find much to interest them if they did so. Women and children are, of course, important library users and should be served. The same statement, however, applies to men.

In addition to the overbalanced 'women-and-children' clientele there is in some libraries too great an emphasis on recreational reading. While the provision of good books for enjoyment is a legitimate library function, it is not the only objective, as some of the region's librarians appear to believe. A major second objective, the provision of information to the adult public (for some effort is made to assist students with assignments) is often neglected.

As examples of the kinds of information public libraries should be able to supply, and which is requested in libraries offering such service, the following list of questions was prepared by the Abilene Public Library's staff. The questions are not the most difficult or abstruse ones asked and answered, but rather the type which comes in every day from the citizens of Abilene and Taylor County:

Verification of 1969 minimum hourly wage scale.

U.S. and international prices of pure silver.

Names of and information about schools of pharmacy in Texas.

The order in which public officials are seated at speaker's table.

Age limit for marriage in South Carolina and Missouri.

Information on careers in foreign service.

Suggested book to study for preparation for high school equivalency diploma test.

Results of the Venezuela elections in early December.

Location of an article in an October issue of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL having to do with malpractice in particular hospital.

Consumer information on electric clothes dryers.

Time differences between Berlin and Abilene.

Illustrations of "Gay 90s" costumes for men.

Definition of charisma.

How to mount a deer head.

How to write a resumé.

Names and addresses of companies doing research and survey work.

How to repair a color TV.

Sign language of the deaf.

List of Texas manufacturers of church furniture.

Information on convertible stocks.

Had these questions been gathered only from the Business Department, they would have been more specialized and more concentrated on a few types of fact. Businessmen need statistics, directory information. They need to know who manufactures a product with a given trade name, how many people in San Antonio have FM radios, what is the present rate of exchange of the franc, and what kind of electric current is common in Peru. Governments which are interested in attracting business and industry into their jurisdictions may not realize how important the availability of such information is, to the businessman deciding where to locate. Especially in an area formerly predominantly rural, the importance for business of availability of information through a public library is likely to be underestimated by officials. Rural people need information, too, in connection with their business. But they are so accustomed to getting it from their agricultural extension agents, and their wives and families from the home demonstration service, that they do not realize that a similar service does not exist for other businesses. Some rural officials even reject the idea of state or federal assistance to their local libraries, forgetting that the agricultural information service on which much farm and ranch activity depends is a form of such assistance, so familiar that it is taken for granted.

As there are more people in Abilene than in other communities in the region, they naturally need more information. Perhaps, because Abilene is a larger community, some of its citizens may need information of a specialized type which would never be required by a citizen of one of the region's smaller communities. But it is inconceivable that the citizens of any community do not have, on occasion, information needs of the type represented by the foregoing list of questions.

In some of the libraries visited as a part of the survey, a citizen asking, for example, about schools of pharmacy in Texas, would be looked at in sheer astonishment and told the library was not intended to supply such information.[1] In other libraries, an offer would be made to write to Abilene or to an Area Library. In still others, a telephone call would be made while the inquirer was waiting, and the information secured for him immediately. In only a handful would the library contain the books which would provide the information from the library's own resources.

Whether it is too much to expect a library to have such information directly at hand will depend to some extent on the size of the library, although the sources of such information are not expensive and are widely held by many quite small libraries. The main drawback may be the librarian's unfamiliarity with such sources; if she does not know such books exist, she will not provide them. The librarians who, lacking the information, telephoned to the MRC or an Area Library, gave a service which was just as good as though the book had been available locally. The inquirer left the building with what he had come for. The librarian who offered to write was conscientious but perhaps a little lacking in the spirit of modern librarianship.

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[1] This statement is borne out by comments made to the surveyor by the librarians themselves, who have consciously limited their services to exclude information.

The librarian who considered such a request beyond the scope of her library's function is not, in the region, represented only once or twice. It is scarcely to be wondered at, in view of the development of the libraries from women's club projects, that the information function is not recognized by the librarians of too many libraries, or by the communities served by these libraries. And here we find another vicious circle. The community is not accustomed to going to the library for information, therefore, the librarian reports "no demand" for that sort of thing; therefore, no provision is made, and too little use is made of the regional system.

If the libraries of the region are to fulfill their complete function, therefore, the citizens and the librarians themselves must begin to be aware of the library as the community's information center. Furthermore, the librarian must have sources of information and know how to use them. In many cases, the source may be outside the library itself; the librarian must be alert to the availability of assistance elsewhere.

Another inadequacy appears in the lack of special provision by most of the libraries for the Spanish-speaking minority. It is scarcely to be wondered at that librarieswhich provide only limited service to the majority English-speaking group, as is true of most of the smaller libraries and some of the larger ones, should fail to make special provision for a minority community group. Interviews with the librarians invariably revealed that minority readers were welcome in the libraries, and in some cases special efforts has been made to introduce them to library services. But most of the librarians spoke of the children of Spanish-speaking parents as the chief users among the Mexican-American group, and felt little or no need to provide materials in Spanish since the children are English-speaking.

Statistics seem to bear out the impression of many of the librarians that Spanish-speaking people are less numerous in the region than they used to be. There are, according to the 1960 Census at any rate, more people of foreign or mixed parentage in the region than there are foreign-born. Table XIII, below, shows those counties which contain percentages above the state average in either or both of the categories:

Table XIII: FOREIGN-BORN, FOREIGN AND MIXED PARENTAGE OF THE REGION, BY PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION, FOR COUNTIES ABOVE STATE AVERAGE

| County | Foreign-Born Population: % if above state average | Foreign and Mixed Parentage: % of Population if above state average |
|---|---|---|
| Baylor | 1.4 | |
| Concho | 8.3 | 2.2 |
| Crockett | 3.0 | 10.1 |
| Glasscock | 7.3 | 5.3 |
| Haskell | | 8.8 |
| Howard | 1.7 | 5.1 |
| Irion | | 6.0 |
| McCulloch | 2.3 | 6.7 |

Table XIII: (cont.)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Martin | 2.7 | 5.7 |
| Menard | 2.5 | 12.3 |
| Mitchell | | 6.1 |
| Reagan | | 6.7 |
| Runnels | | 6.7 |
| Schleicher | 2.6 | 9.4 |
| Sutton | 7.5 | 15.0 |
| Tom Green | 2.2 | 7.1 |

As might be expected, the counties having the largest percentages in both columns tend to be in the southern and southwestern parts of the region, which are nearest the Mexican border. By far the largest foreign group, whether by birth or parentage, comes from Mexico. While the proportions for any one county are not large, the total number of persons in the entire region in these two categories is a fairly large one. The conclusion that might be drawn regarding library service to those members of these populations who still speak Spanish, many of whom read little or no English, is that it is highly unlikely that any significant service will be given outside the large centers, unless it is handled cooperatively and coordinated for the region as a whole.

Public Libraries --Summary

The picture drawn so far is one of inadequacy, for the most part. While it has its bright spots, even these are bright only when compared to the general picture. The region's public libraries do have many problems, many inadequacies. Readers who have followed the Report to this point may well feel a profound discouragement, or perhaps even a feeling of defensiveness in loyal support of a valiant local effort by a woman's club or a librarian.

While it is, of course, the surveyor's task to identify problems and point out weaknesses, since no one would employ a consultant merely to be patted on the back and told that all is well, nevertheless the surveyor must be sensitive to improvements, even though they may sometimes be modest steps toward standards of adequacy. In this region, it is important to remember that many of the libraries whose inadequacies have been noted are relatively new. Texas as a whole has been a latecomer among the states in statewide efforts toward public library development. These new libraries may find encouragement in the example of their neighbors, which, beginning in exactly the same small way, have now moved on to expanded services. For example, a quotation from a neighboring county's newspaper points to the development of Mitchell County's library service:

> "The library was originally formed as a project of the Mitchell County Federation of Women's Clubs and started in 1925 with 217 books... Recently...ownership was transferred to Mitchell County. The library now has 18,000 books."[1]

That was written in 1966. The library now has over 21,000 books, as well as recordings, filmstrips, etc. It received in 1967 a budget of $13,880 from the county. Its new building was built about 3 years ago. This comment does not imply that Mitchell County library has "arrived." It recognizes that it is not completely self-sufficient by its reciprocity agreement with Scurry County. But the story of a small club library's growth is one which could be imitated by many of the still-small, still only partially publicly-supported libraries in the area. They need not, however, wait so long to gain government acceptance and support, since the pioneering libraries of the area have broken the ice and established the pattern for other cities and counties to follow.

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[1] Daily Herald, Big Spring, August 5, 1966. (Clipping).

Below are listed some of the recent improvements and advances in public library service in the region:

### New Library

The Crockett County's new public library is housed at present in the Ozona High School, and the public shares the High School librarian and collection. This library has extremely handsome quarters and furnishings, and is open some evenings.

### Libraries Reopened

Formerly closed and dormant, the libraries at Hamlin and Eden have recently re-opened.

### New Buildings and Quarters

Among new buildings built especially for library purposes are those in Abilene, Brownwood, Mitchell County, Sweetwater.

New quarters in larger and better located buildings have been opened for the libraries of Anson, Munday, and Haskell County.

Baylor County's new Courthouse contains a handsome, carpeted library, with a separate entrance clearly marked.

### Fees Dropped

Several libraries which used to charge fees for library use are now free to all users. These include Anson, Eden, Foard County.

### County Support

Several libraries formerly supported by clubs, fees, etc. have begun to receive county support. These include: Reagan County (since 1961 supported by the county), Foard County. In addition, some libraries are now receiving county funds for books, formerly supplied by clubs, etc. These include: San Saba, Martin County.

New Services, etc.

Scurry County and Mitchell County have a contract to give reciprocal service to each other's borrowers. Howard County has joined the new film circuit.

These changes and improvements testify to the fact that public library development in the region is a reality. There is no reason to believe that such development will not continue. It is, in fact, the chief objective of the newly-enacted state legislation to assist such development on a statewide basis, as it is also the chief objective of this Report to make a contribution toward the same end in the 36-county region.

Our summary of the public library situation, then, is as follows:

Library service in the area is sub-standard, whether standards of Texas or of ALA are used.

It compares unfavorably at this time with the stage of development reached by most of the states selected for comparison.

It lags behind the state as a whole, on the whole.

However, it is, in many places, relatively new and still developing.

A number of improvements can be cited to show that the libraries of the region are moving forward.

The above comments apply to the libraries as individual institutions. In the next Chapter we shall examine the most important change in the regional library picture, that brought about by the MRC System, the Area Libraries, and the statewide library program in general.

## VI. THE STATE LIBRARY PROGRAM

The Texas State Library's Field Services Division makes available important services to public libraries in the state. Since it is the policy of the State Library to assist libraries toward self-help rather than provide services which create a dependency upon its resources, much of the assistance available is of the "incentive" type--that is, it is given only to local libraries which, through local effort, meet certain criteria.

### Services available to all public libraries

Available to all libraries, however, regardless of their size or adequacy are certain basic state services. These include:

Visits and advice from State Library Consultants

Availability of professional library materials, on loan from the State Library in Austin

Opportunity to attend State Library Workshops

### Services available to libraries meeting certain criteria

Extension Loan Collections

To qualify for such collections of supplementary books, for a period of one year, libraries must:

Give free public service

Be open to the public a minimum of 9 hours weekly

A number of the libraries in the region under study have received such collections, but several have become ineligible because of insufficient hours of service.

Those libraries which charge a fee are not, of course, eligible.

Eight libraries in the region borrowed such collections in 1965/66.

Title I Cash Grants (from funds made available under Title I of the federal Library Services and Construction Act.)

> These funds make possible the statewide system plan, originally recommended by the TLA Library Development Committee, which divides the state into Major Resource Center Districts and the Districts into Areas. Libraries designated either as MRCs or Area Libraries receive funds under this program for the services they perform for the District or Areas. Community Libraries within Districts and Areas may also receive Title I funds if they meet certain criteria, covering such topics as:
>
> Legal establishment of the public library
> Library board
> Proportion of income from tax support
> Submission of a budget
> Librarian's qualifications
> Free service
> Per capita local support
> Budget for personnel
> Hours of service
> A written agreement with an Area Library or
> Major Resource Center.
>
> Few of the smaller libraries in the region are able to meet all of the criteria which would enable them to qualify for Title I funds as Community Libraries in the Plan. Those which have qualified, and received the supplementary funds for materials, have been able to add substantially to their book resources.

Although the Abilene Public Library has been designated as Major Resource Center, it does not quite meet the population standard set for such Centers (200,000 population in the Metropolitan Area). Of the two Area Libraries so far designated, that of Tom Green County easily tops the 25,000 minimum population required, but Brownwood does not greatly exceed this figure. In addition to these three libraries, each of which received Title I funds, two community libraries in the region received funds in fiscal 1968: Mitchell County Library at Colorado City and Hardeman County Public Library at Quanah.

Under the Plan, Community Libraries contract with Area Libraries, which in turn contract with Major Resource Centers. The chief service given, at present, is interlibrary loan--the lending, to a library for a borrower, of books or other materials by another library. Thus, if a Community Library cannot satisfy a reader's need, a request goes to the Area Library, which fills it if possible from its own collection. If not, the request goes on to the Major Resource Center. All these requests may be telephoned collect. If a Major Resource Center cannot itself supply a needed item, the request is sent by a Telex network to other MRCs, including the largest public libraries in Texas and the State Library itself. Thus, the need of a reader anywhere in Texas will be met if any public library on this network has the material he needs. Photocopies are sent when books and periodicals cannot be loaned.

## How the Statewide Plan Works in the Region

In our 36-county region, as has been noted, the Abilene Public Library is the Major Resource Center. Two Area Libraries were set up early in 1968, in Brownwood and Tom Green County public libraries. Since the establishment of these two Area Libraries, and completion of their contracts with the public libraries in their respective service areas, the Area Libraries have received requests from neighboring smaller libraries, filled them if possible, sent them on to Abilene if necessary. The Abilene Public Library has continued to serve as first-line resource for those libraries not yet connected with an Area Library, and has directly filled their requests, along with those coming from the two Area Libraries on behalf of their readers. Requests which Abilene cannot fill are sometimes checked with the three colleges in Abilene being sent out on the Telex network.

Beginning in about June, 1968, the following libraries agreed to send their requests to Brownwood:

Brady (F.M. (Buck) Richards Library)
Goldthwaite (Jennie Trent Dew Library)
San Saba County
Santa Anna

To the Tom Green County Public Library at San Angelo a larger number of libraries was assigned:

Crockett Co.
Eden
Eldorado
Irion Co.
Menard
Reagan Co.
Sonora
Sterling Co.

The total population assigned to Brownwood, including its own county and that part of Coleman County without library service at present, is 60,370, of which 32,531 are outside Brown County. That assigned to Tom Green County totals 96,182, of which 20,472 are outside Tom Green County. Thus, it can be seen that while Tom Green County Library's area is larger geographically, and contains more libraries, it contains fewer "outside" readers than does the more compact area served by Brownwood.

There is not, as yet, an Area Library in the western part of the region, nor is there one in the northern sector. At present, therefore, the following libraries still send direct to the Abilene Public Library:

Anson
Ballinger
Baylor Co.
Callahan Co.
Foard Co.
Hamlin
Hardeman Co.
Haskell Co.
Howard Co.
Kent Co.
Martin
Mitchell Co.
Munday
Scurry Co.
Shackelford Co.
Stamford
Stonewall Co.
Sweetwater
Vernon
Winters

Since this group includes some of the largest communities in the region, the total population still dependent directly on Abilene is by far the largest, 129,669, not counting Taylor County's own 111,520.

A check of interlibrary request activity for the months of October through December of 1967 shows all the requests of the region going directly to the Abilene Public Library, since the Area libraries were not yet designated. In these three months, a total of 19 libraries sent 67 requests which were met with the loan of 149 books. (These figures may not be exact, since it is sometimes difficult to tell from the records whether one or more requests is being met in one shipment of books, but they are fairly close.)

The libraries making the most requests were Ballinger (17); Brady (12); and Goldthwaite (10). Martin County, Tom Green County, and Brownwood sent three each. Others sending one or two included: Hardeman County, Sweetwater, San Saba, Stamford, Vernon, Big Spring, Foard County, Stonewall County, Shackelford County, Munday, and Baylor County. Two other libraries, at Mason and Junction, also sent requests; these have since been assigned to another MRC.

The calls upon the two Area Libraries have differed considerably. Since the summer of 1968, the Tom Green County Library has received three requests from only two libraries in its area, and has sent a total of 11 books to Reagan County and Eldorado (as of December, 1968). Brownwood, on the other hand, has been busy with request service; three libraries (Brady, Goldthwaite, and San Saba) have sent 53 requests for 157 books.

The experience of the two Area Libraries seems to underline the importance, for interlibrary loan activity, of the interest of community librarians in the program. Both Brady and Goldthwaite had been fairly heavy borrowers from Abilene in 1967; they continued to borrow, even more readily, from Brownwood when assigned to its area. On the other hand, the libraries assigned to Tom Green County do not seem to have used the service in 1967, and their failure to do so continues in the new Area Library arrangement. As has been noted, Reagan County and Eldorado are exceptions.

Another difference in the two situations is that the librarian at Brownwood, with a small and reasonably close group of libraries to serve, was able to visit with the librarians in the Area, to discuss the Plan and available resources. Visits to San Saba, Brady, and Goldthwaite apparently paid dividends in ready use of the service. Santa Anna, not yet visited at the time of the surveyor's visit, had not as yet used it. The value of personal contact, visits, detailed explanation of the Plan, therefore, seems indicated. The Tom Green County librarian announced plans to visit his far-flung Area as soon as possible. Visits from Abilene to those libraries not yet in an Area may also be helpful, when they can be arranged.

This is particularly true in view of the fairly frequent changes in librarians in some of the libraries. The surveyor met new librarians at Munday, Brady, Aspermont, Hamlin, Stamford. Since that time, new librarians have been appointed at Vernon and Sweetwater. While these newcomers may be familiar, through briefing by the predecessor or through having been previously on the library staff, with the plan and procedures of the MRC and Area System, they may also need encouragement and experience in its use.

The area system has apparently changed the pattern of interlibrary loan activity at the Abilene Public Library itself. In the period from October to December, 1968, the *regional* request service dropped in comparison with the same three-month period in 1967:

| 1967 | 1968 |
|---|---|
| 19 libraries | 15 libraries |
| 67 requests | 49 requests |
| 149 books sent | 54 books sent |

These totals need not be thought of as discouraging, although they do indicate that those libraries borrowing directly from Abilene are not using the service as actively as those in the Brownwood area. Libraries borrowing from Abilene in the 1968 period which do not appear in the 1967 list are: Reagan County, Haskell County, Eden, and Mitchell County. Reagan County's requests came by way of Tom Green County. Eden's came direct from the borrower; it was filled through the Eden Library, with the request that the borrower try there first next time. Normally Eden would send first to Tom Green County.

While regional requests to Abilene have decreased, primarily because they are being taken care of in the Area Libraries, the use of the Abilene Public Library's resources via Telex has increased. In the three-month period from October through December, 1968, 36 requests were filled by Abilene for borrowers outside the region, for 40 books. Lubbock City-County Library borrowed most frequently, 11 times. Other Major Resource Center libraries borrowing from Abilene were: El Paso County; Houston, Fort Worth, and Amarillo. It is possible that some of these requests were made by the MRCs on behalf of their neighboring libraries, although normally, when this is the case, the borrowing library is the home library of the ultimate reader. Others borrowing were: Orange, Floyd County, Gladewater, Ector County, Aransas Pass, Post, Galveston, Bryan, Huntsville, Frionia, Temple, Lamb County, Brownfield, Muleshoe, and the State Library at Austin.

While it is too soon to make final conclusions, it appears that the pattern of interlibrary loan activity is changing somewhat: Abilene is sending less to the region because the Area Libraries are taking some of the requests, but Telex loans are increasing. As a result, Abilene's interlibrary loan total is fairly constant.

This comparison does not tell the whole story, however. Use of the service does not seem to correlate with size of local library or local population. It may perhaps come as something of a surprise to non-library readers of this Report that, in other interlibrary loan and request systems, it is not usually the smallest and (presumably) weakest libraries which make most use of resources outside their own. On the contrary, the larger and stronger the library, on the whole, the more use it makes of "outside" resources. The reason for this apparent anomaly appears to lie in two factors: (1) the larger library, with its broader, more varied collection, is expected by its readers to provide more and better service than is its small counterpart. Expectations frequently outstrip what is available--hence a heavier demand from the outside resource. (2) The larger, stronger library will probably have a staff more ready to take advantage of the outside resource, ant to utilize it on behalf of readers. A larger library may be able to pay better-trained people; they are accustomed to selecting more and more varied books, and are therefore better aware of what is published which they have not been able to buy; like the public, they expect the library to give better service, and sent outside for it when it is not available locally.

In the light of these observations, it becomes interesting to discover which of the 35 libraries in the region have failed, during the period under study, to make any use of the request and interlibrary loan service. None of the libraries in the over 10,000 population category has failed to use it at least once. Among the 5,000-9,999 population libraries, only Callahan County and Winters have not used the service during the period under study; in the 2,500 to 4,999 category, the following had not (December, 1968) made requests: newly-established Crockett County, Sonora, Menard, Anson. And, most revealing of all, not one of the libraries in the smallest population group, including Irion County, Kent County, Sterling County, and Santa Anna, had used the service during the period studied.

It cannot reasonably be assumed that no one in the counties or communities served by the non-requesting libraries ever needs books or magazines not available locally. Some of the collections concerned are extremely limited. The size of a community is no indication of the complexity of an *individual's* need, as is evidenced by the listing below of some of the specific requests actually sent from communities of various sizes in the region:

From Eldorado to Tom Green County -- A book on amateur antique bottle collecting

From Baylor County to Abilene -- A book on operating your business as a corporation

From Hardeman County to Abilene -- Material on the Comanche language

From Reagan County to Tom Green County -- Requests for a number of World War I memoirs -- Pershing, Ludendorff, Clemenceau, etc. (Tom Green County had lost one volume of Pershing's *Memoirs*, which was supplied by Abilene; *Ludendorff's Own Story* was not in either library, and was requested by Telex for the Reagan County reader.)

From Eden to Tom Green County -- An 18th century novel by Roche (Borrowed from Abilene for the Eden user).

From Baylor County to Abilene -- A book on the psychology of management, for a highway patrolman.

From Goldthwaite to Abilene -- Material on Air pollution for a club paper

From Brady to Abilene -- Poesie du Cauchemar, for a college student, referred to the State Library

From Hardeman County to Abilene -- Material on capital punishment

From Sweetwater to Abilene -- Material on decoupage for a teacher

From Brownwood to Abilene -- Material on credit control, for a businessman

From Howard County to Abilene -- Material on teaching English literature, for a graduate student

From Junction (formerly in the region) to Abilene -- Material on real estate contracts

From Wilbarger County to Abilene -- Material on equal rights for women movement

From Brady to Abilene -- Pictures of fruit flies

From Ballinger to Abilene -- History of hair styles for a club paper

From Goldthwaite to Abilene -- Material on police brutality

From Shackelford County to Abilene -- Book on antique auto body construction and restoration

From Brownwood to Abilene -- Material on radio for man preparing to take FCC exam

From Tom Green County to Abilene -- A book on ministering to the grief sufferer, for a clergyman, borrowed for the San Angelo reader by Abilene from Abilene Christian College.

These are only some of the questions sent, but they are varied enough to indicate the sort of service made available to the citizens of the 36-county region by the Area Libraries and the Major Resource Center. Needs for information on such topics, or for specific books, may well exist, and in all probability do exist, in every one of the communities served in the region.

The first issue of the newsletter, Big Country M.R.C. News[1] brings the story up to date. It reports that "During the first four months of 1969, APL received 45 interlibrary loan telephone calls from 10 different libraries. The total number of requests was 88: 52 title requests and 36 subject requests. Thirty-four title requests were relayed to other Texas libraries through the telex network. The following are area libraries making use of the telephone service during the four-month period analyzed:

> "Howard County Library, Big Spring;
> F.M. (Buck) Richards Memorial Library, Brady;
> Brownwood Public Library, Brownwood;
> Mitchell County Public Library, Colorado City;
> Foard County Federation Library, Crowell;
> Jennie Trent Dew Library, Goldthwaite;
> Tom Green County Library, San Angelo;
> Scurry County Library, Snyder;
> Stamford Carnegie Library, Stamford;
> County-City Library, Sweetwater."

There follows a list of 23 questions asked, covering a variety of topics from isometric exercises to the addresses of medical journals, from club foot to the Leningrad Museum. While the figures given do not permit a comparison with those collected by the surveyor earlier, there is every reason to believe that the interlibrary loan activity continues, and that important information is going out from the MRC and the Area Libraries to the citizens of the region.

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[1] Abilene Public Library, May 20, 1969, p. 3.

## New Legislation

In order to continue and expand this excellent program, the Texas Library Association sponsored a bill in the recent session of the State Legislature, entitled (short title) the Library Systems Act, and authorizing the appropriation of state funds for the development of the statewide program. The bill, which passed the Legislature but was not funded in this session, continues the existing program, with certain improvements. For example, when funds become available under the new law, MRCs will be able to use state funds for employment of new personnel for system services, an expenditure not now permitted. The law will also permit the expenditure of some of the funds to reimburse non-public libraries for providing specialized services to major resource systems.

While they are not spelled out, standards are called for under the new legislation, which will be utilized by the State Library Commission in determining the eligibility of libraries to participate. It seems probable that these criteria may bear some resemblance to those used for Title I grants, but this is unknown at present. Guidelines for the implementation of the law will no doubt be published when funds become available.

Another innovation in the Library Systems Act is the requirement of an advisory council for each MRC, consisting of six lay members representing the member libraries.

When funds become available under the new law, the activities of the MRC system in the region can be developed considerably. Some of the recommendations listed in the last chapter of this Report can be afforded, and a real upward thrust in library service can be anticipated.

## VII. THE COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Within the 36-county region of this survey there are only six institutions of higher education. Three of these offer a basic four-year liberal arts curriculum leading to the bachelor's degree, and in addition a fifth year of work for the Master's degree in selected fields. These are Hardin-Simmons University and Abilene Christian College in Abilene (the latter usually abbreviated to ACC) and Howard Payne College in Brownwood. McMurry College in Abilene and Angelo State College in San Angelo offer only bachelor's degree programs. Howard County Junior College in Big Spring offers a two-year junior college program. Of these institutions, four are privately controlled and two are public institutions. Hardin-Simmons and Howard Payne are Southern Baptist-sponsored institutions, ACC is affiliated with the Church of Christ, and McMurry with the Methodist Church. Angelo State was originally a locally-supported county junior college, but in 1965 became a four-year institution under the control of the State College Board of Regents. Howard County Junior College is financed by the local county government.

The enrollment in these institutions varies from a low of approximately 1,100 at Howard Payne to highs of 3,000 at ACC and 2,500 at Angelo State. Eventually, Angelo State projects an enrollment of 8,500 to 9,000 and ACC of 4,000 to 5,000. No projected figures are available for Howard County and the future growth of the other three church-related institutions will be much less.

Table XIV: ENROLLMENT IN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES, 1967/68[1]

| Institution | Enrollment |
|---|---|
| Abilene Christian College | 3,129 |
| Angelo State College | 2,556 |
| Hardin-Simmons University | 1,777 |
| McMurry College | 1,522 |
| Howard Payne College | 1,473 |
| Howard County Junior College | 1,013 |

Each of these institutions maintains a growing library collection, and, since several are fifty or more years old and must support sizable programs of higher education, their libraries are among the largest in the region. Indeed, three of them are now larger than any public library in the 36 counties (Hardin-Simmons, ACC, and Angelo State).

Table XV: VOLUMES HELD: COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES[2]

| Institution | Vols, 1968 | 1969 (est.) |
|---|---|---|
| Hardin-Simmons | 155,000 | 160,000 |
| Abilene Christian | 135,000 | 145,000 |
| Angelo State | 47,000 | 100,000 |
| Howard Payne | 75,000 | 80,000 |
| McMurry | 65,000 | 73,000 |
| Howard County | 18,500 | 21,000 |

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[1] U.S. Office of Education. Education Directory, 1968-69. Part 3: Higher Education. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1969).

[2] Note: These figures of library holdings in 1968 are based on those compiled and published by the U.S. Office of Education in Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities: Data for Individual Institutions, Fall, 1968, except for two instances. The totals for Hardin-Simmons are taken from the librarian's annual report, rather than the Office of Education record, since there was a serious discrepancy, possibly caused by a different method of tabulating the figures.. The totals for McMurry are likewise those furnished by the librarian, since there was much weeding of the collection during this period that is not reflected in the totals submitted to the Office of Education. The 1969 estimates are based on recent growth records.

Table XVI: CURRENT PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

| Institution | Subscriptions |
|---|---|
| Abilene Christian | 1,289 |
| Hardin-Simmons | 800 |
| Angelo State | 766 |
| McMurry | 596 |
| Howard Payne | 506 |
| Howard County | 269 |

The total number of volumes given above, Table XV, needs some interpretation. At the present time, the ACC library is probably the best in the region. The fact that it ranks second to Hardin-Simmons in total holdings is due to the fact that the former counts in its overall total some 40,000 or more U.S. government documents received as a depository since the 1940's. The monograph and periodical collections at ACC are undoubtedly larger at the present time. This can clearly be seen when the periodical subscriptions are compared. ACC is making great efforts to strengthen its library holdings. Because of a more active acquisitions policy, McMurry College will also undoubtedly outrank Howard Payne in total holdings within a few years. The case of Angelo State is an even more startling one. When it became a four-year college in 1965 it has less than 20,000 volumes in its library. Because of two successive grants of more than $200,000 each from the State Legislature to enable the library to acquire a good basic collection, the college should have at its disposal 100,000 volumes by the end of this year. Whether any further such grants will be made or not it is hard to say, but in any case its regular appropriations, which are based on enrollment figures~~, will~~ enable it to keep up with the top private colleges in the region and make it possible for it to assume an important place among the libraries of the entire 36-county region.

The budgets for the 1967/68 academic year for the libraries of the six academic institutions are given below in Table XVII. The total amount allocated to books, periodicals, and binding is also given, plus what percent of the total educational budget the library budget represents.

Table XVII: FINANCIAL SUPPORT: COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES[1]

| Institution | Library Budget | Book Budget | Percentage of Total Educ. Exp. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Angelo State | $343,732 | $229,589 | 16.8% |
| ACC | 145,994 | 56,487 | 4.0 |
| McMurry | 107,413 | 37,721 | 9.3 |
| Hardin-Simmons | 101,273 | 30,309 | 5.1 |
| Howard Payne | 60,501 | 18,881 | 3.1 |
| Howard County | 37,402 | 9,085 | 4.5 |

Several institutions are making great efforts to build up their libraries, as can be seen by these figures. A minimum of 5% of the educational budget should be allocated to the library according to the standards for college libraries set up by the Association of College and Research Libraries, but several of the colleges in the area are allocating far in excess of that figure. Angelo State's special grants are especially noteworthy, but McMurry also has made great efforts. On the other hand the Howard Payne College Library is woefully underfinanced.

Three of these libraries are housed in new library buildings: Angelo State (one of the best designed and handsomest college library buildings in the state, built in 1967), Howard County (1967) and McMurry (1964). Howard Payne's building, erected in 1952, while very traditional in design and not the most functional imaginable, would be adequate for the forseeable future if space in the building were not occupied by administrative offices. Both ACC and Hardin-Simmons desperately need new buildings. One at ACC, which will increase library space from the present 20,000 to 73,000 square feet, has already been designed and has the next priority in the college's building program. At Hardin-Simmons, on the other hand, nothing has yet been done to plan for the rehousing of the library which now is crowded into some 20,000 square feet of the main administration building.

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[1] U.S. Office of Education. Library Statistics of College and Universities: Data for Individual Institutions, Fall 1968. (Washington; GPO, 1969).

While four of the six institutions are not publicly financed, few barriers have ever been set up by any of them against use of their library facilities by the general public. In fact, the three in Abilene have cooperated actively with the Abilene Public Library for the past fifteen or more years and make their resources very freely available to the citizens of that city. Because of the size of their collections these academic libraries constitute a major resource in the area. Let us now examine each of them and their resources in greater detail.

## Abilene Christian College

Abilene Christian College was founded as a small academy in 1906. It became a junior college in 1915 and a four-year institution in 1919. It now offers several programs at the master's degree level in addition to the bachelor's programs. All of its faculty and staff must be members of the Church of Christ, with which the school is affiliated. The college, unlike those of several other denominations in Texas, benefits from the fact that it is the only one of its denomination in this part of the United States and thus can be the beneficiary of all of the support of the members of the church in the area. It does not, however, receive any direct contributions from the church itself. Its present enrollment of slightly over 3000 students makes it the fourth-largest non-tax-supported college in the state. It is a growing and dynamic institution with an able and very dedicated staff.

The library collection at ACC now totals approximately 135,000 volumes. As has already been noted this is the largest collection of monographs and serials in the area, being exceeded only by Hardin-Simmons which counts in its total a large number of federal documents received as a depository. The total number of current periodical subscriptions is also the largest in the area (1289). The library budget in 1967-68 totalled $145,994, 4% of the overall educational budget of the school. Of this amount it spent $56,487 for books and periodicals. The library is growing steadily and the administration seems concerned with its needs, although it still fails to allocate the minimum 5% of the total educational budget recommended in the Association of College and Research Libraries' standards.

The largest teaching departments in the college are those in religion, education and English. Of all students graduating, 45% are eligible for teaching certificates. In conjunction with its religion department, the college offers courses in ancient Greek, Latin and Hebrew (in the latter case it is the only school in the area to do so.) It also offers courses in modern French, Spanish, Italian and German (its courses in Italian also being unique in the area.) Business administration and speech and drama are other strong departments. The college fails to give many courses in some of the social sciences, notably sociology and geography. Economics, government and history (other than American) could also stand expansion. Offerings in the sciences are about average. All of this is reflected in the book collection (as should be true of any academic library that takes its responsibility to its institution's teaching program seriously.) The religion collection is the outstanding one in the area and is surprisingly broad in its coverage, not being in the least parochial. The education and English collections are also good, as is the general reference collection. Its great lacks are in the social sciences (except for American history, one of its strengths) and the students tend to use the Hardin-Simmons Library in these fields. But it is, all in all, a good working collection, which is made even better by the superior reference given the students and faculty by a knowledgeable and dedicated staff.

The greatest handicap that the ACC Library operates under is its dreadfully crowded and dismal quarters. It is attempting to serve over 3000 students in an area of about 20,000 square feet. Fortunately the administration realizes the plight of the library and a new building to take care of the needs of the college for the next fifteen years has already been designed and is the next item on the building program of the college. This building is being planned to house 300,000 volumes. Both horizontal and vertical expansion will be possible to allow for future increases in size to serve as many as 5,000 students. When ACC achieves its new building, it will then truly take its place as the outstanding library in the Abilene area and in perhaps all of the 36 counties.

## Hardin-Simmons University

Hardin-Simmons was founded in 1891 as Abilene Baptist College. Its name was changed almost immediately to Simmons College and in 1925 to Simmons University. In 1934 it became Hardin-Simmons University. Control of the University passed to the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1941 and it receives substantial financial support from the Convention. At the present time the university offers work at both the bachelor's and master's degree level. Master's degree majors, however, are offered only in economics, education, English, history and music, the principal areas of strength in the curriculum. There are approximately 1775 students enrolled at present in the university. Future expansion to 2500 students is planned for.

A recent report of Dr. W.R. Carden, Jr. to the Baptist Christian Education Commission recommended that Hardin-Simmons drop its graduate division, except for possible programs offered in conjunction with ACC or Baylor University, and concentrate its efforts in its traditional strengths in fine arts and the social sciences at the undergraduate level. It appears at present that the university admimistration will resist such a move. The Baptist Convention is, however, faced with the problem of attempting to finance too many schools within a limited geographic area and a concentration of effort would appear necessary. (More will be said of this report later in conjunction with Howard Payne College.)

Hardin-Simmons has had the reputation of being the outstanding academic institution in the area, but it is in danger of losing its dominant position to other institutions, particularly ACC and Angelo State. The library, too, which was once the finest in the region, can no longer make such a claim. Its basic monographic and periodical collection consist of only 103,000 volumes and its budget has dropped to fourth among the six institutions in the area. It has fallen behind in the number of volumes added annually and in current periodical subscriptions (see Tables XV and XVI). In only one area is it still dominant - that of federal government documents. It became a depository in the 1940's and has benefitted much from this status. This has greatly aided its social science program, particularly in history, government and economics. Since there can be only two government depositories in any one Congressional district (the other one being presently Howard Payne College in Brownwood) Hardin-Simmons will undoubtedly continue to enjoy this superiority. It also has accumulated over the years a better collection in the social sciences than any other college in the area. It also has strong holdings in music and the arts and a good curriculum library in education. Basically this is, as a whole, a sound collection, but it seems to be marking time at the moment.

There is little evidence of real concern on the part of the administration of the need for a new library building. Statements have been made to this effect, but no planning has yet taken place and other facilities have several times taken precedence over the library's really great needs. The present 20,000 square feet of space allocated to the library in the main administration building is totally inadequate. Some of the collection has already had to be put in storage and the tables are often crowded with unshelved books. The seating capacity is far below what it should be. Top priority needs to be given to a new library facility, adequate for the next twenty years if at all possible.

## McMurry College

The third of the colleges in Abilene is the youngest and the smallest. McMurry College opened its doors in 1923 as a creation of the Northwest Texas Conference of the Methodist Church, with which it is still affiliated. The college has a smaller enrollment than either ACC or Hardin-Simmons, having at present around 1500 students. It offers only bachelor's degree programs. Its liberal arts program is fairly well spread out over the tradtitional subject areas with no great concentration in any one. The college does have a reputation, however, for excellence in the sciences.

The Jay-Rollins Library was built in 1963-64 and has a capacity of 125,000 volumes. The book collection at McMurry has been extensively weeded in recent years, particularly in religion, English and the sciences and now has little or no "dead wood" in it. It is somewhat smaller than would appear from Office of Education figures, probably numbering no more than 65,000 volumes. It is growing at a good rate, however (some 8,000 volumes last year). The administration has increased the library budget substantially over the last few years, from $81,000 in 1965-66 to $107,000 in 1967-68, and it now represents a very high 9.3% of the total educational budget of the college. Further infusions of substantial amounts for the book collection and for staff will be needed if the library is to support the academic program of the school adequately, as its total holdings are far too small for 1500 students.

As far as outstanding collections are concerned, the college cannot compete with ACC or Hardin-Simmons. It does have a special genealogy collection (of little value to the student body but of some interest to outsiders) and some important and expensive science materials that are unique in the Abilene area.

## Howard Payne College

Howard Payne College has the distinction of being the oldest institution of higher education in the 36-county region, having been founded in 1890 in Brownwood by the Pecan Valley Baptist Association. In 1953 Daniel Baker College, also located in Brownwood, was merged with the college. Howard Payne College is supported by the Baptist Convention of Texas, as is Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. It offers work at both the bachelor's and master's degree level. Its current enrollment is approximately 1475 students.

Howard Payne's library is the most poorly supported of any in the area, receiving only 3.1% of the total educational budget of the institution. While the collection totals some 75,000 volumes it contains far fewer useful books, as it has not been adequately weeded in recent years. Its reference collection has some glaring gaps in it and is the poorest of any of the four-year colleges. On the other hand it does have extensive runs of periodicals, including some music items not found elsewhere in the area. It has also been a U.S. government document depository since 1964.

In the recent report of Dr. W.R. Carden Jr. to the Baptist Christian Education Commission, it was recommended that Howard Payne College be sold to the local tax district. The Baptist Convention of Texas is clearly faced with a serious problem due to the large number of colleges and universities it has tried to maintain. It must reduce this number if it is to support the remainder of them in a satisfactory manner. As one of the weakest institutions under its control, Howard Payne has been chosen for elimination. Whether this action will ever be taken by the Convention remains to be seen. It is true that there is no junior college in Brown County and that such an institution is needed. The campus, buildings and library of Howard Payne would give the county a tremendous head start in developing such a facility. At present Howard Payne draws its students from all over Texas and surrounding states and so does not serve in any great way as a local college. Its programs do not include any of the technical and vocational programs that are usually offered by a community junior college, such as Howard County's.

Whatever the future of the college, hopefully the library will continue to remain in the community and be available to it, perhaps to a much greater extent than is now possible. The library has no great strengths when compared with those in Abilene or San Angelo, but it is so much larger than the public library that is is an important asset tothe community of Brownwood and should be preserved and strengthened if at all possible.

## Angelo State College

Perhaps the most exciting event in the academic library world of the 36-county area in the last decade has been the development of the Angelo State College Library - both the building, one of the handsomest and most functional in the whole state, and the book collection. While it is clearly still in the beginning stages of its evolution, it promises to add much to the library resources of the area and to become one of its most important library centers. Already it is able to make some unique contributions.

The history of the college can be traced back to 1928 when San Angelo Junior College was established as part of the city school system. In 1945 a County Junior College District was established by vote of the citizens of Tom

Green County and took over operation of the college. In 1963, by an act of the Texas State Legislature Angelo State College was created, becoming a four-year institution some two years later. It achieved full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1967. It was in that year that the new Porter Henderson Library was opened. This facility totals some 76,700 square feet and is designed to accommodate 958 readers and 237,900 volumes. Expansion is planned for horizontally as needed to accommodate a student body that will eventually go to 8500 or 9000 students. At present there are about 2500 students enrolled on the campus.

The college offers a two-year home economics, agriculture and nursing program and a four-year liberal arts program. Its largest number of course offerings is in business administration. English (including journalism, speech and drama) and education are also stressed. The college offers the only instruction in the Russian language in the four-year institutions of the area. Its science offerings are fairly strong also in comparison with neighboring institutions.

When the college became a four-year institution it had a totally inadequate library of less than 20,000 volumes. By the end of the 1967-68 fiscal year it had increased that total to 47,000 and thousands of additional books were on hand waiting to be catalogued. It is hoped that the total collection will pass 100,000 volumes sometime in 1969. What has made all this possible? Extra appropriations - "establishment grants" - from the State Legislature, in addition to the regular budget are the answer. Whereas the 1966-67 library budget totalled $110,000, that for 1967-68 was $343,732, $229,589 of that for books, periodicals and binding. An additional $200,000 for books and periodicals came to the library in the 1968-69 fiscal year. The problem has been not money for books, but money for staff to select and process these materials. This the legislature failed to provide - at least in sufficient quantity. Nevertheless an impressive job is being done by all the staff. It was very evident to the surveyor that the Head Librarian and the Assistant Librarian (formerly the Acquisitions Librarian) were doing an outstanding job of building a library collection for Angelo State. They have developed a well-thought-out plan and are following through with it faithfully.

Of the approximately $225,000 book budget in 1967-68, $25,000 was allocated for current periodicals and binding and $100,000 for current book purchases. This was basically the amount that would have been received for current purchases under the standard state formula and could be counted upon to continue in future years. The additional $100,000 was divided into two sums, one of $40,000 to be spent on older monographs chosen by the faculty and library staff from those in the Books for College Libraries list published by ALA and $60,000 for back files of periodicals, largely in the form of microfilm. This latter is adding greatly to the resources of the region. For example, Angelo State now has the only complete file of the New York Times on microfilm in the entire area; the other college libraries have only portions of it. From the second-year's extra appropriations further titles have been selected from Books for College Libraries and other basic lists.

A very strong bibliography collection is being built up, with all the major indexing tools as well. The reference collection likewise is receiving special attention. Certain important foreign language encyclopedias and other tools are unique to the region. There is also strength in the areas of technology and science (chemistry, natural history, and nursing in particular). In the general collection the surveyor noted strength in foreign literature, both in the original and in translation, not found elsewhere. The library has been a U.S. government document depository since 1964 and is receiving a selected number of items from the Superintendent of Documents which should be valuable to citizens in the area as well as to students and faculty.

A newly chosen collection of materials that has been well selected is often of greater use than an older collection of the same number of volumes. Thus the importance of the Angelo State collection to the region may well outweigh its total numbers. The quality of selection to date has been outstanding and augurs well for the future. Certainly a completely new element has come on to the library horizon in the area.

### Howard County Junior College

Big Spring is the location of the only community junior college in the 36-county area, Howard County Junior College. The college has now been in operation for over 20 years, having been established in 1946. The present campus was first occupied in 1951. The library was first housed in a portion of the main classroom and administration building. In 1967 it moved into a structure of its own of some 14,000 square feet designed to seat 224 readers and house 35,000 volumes. The present collection totals some 18,500 volumes and is growing at the rate of over 2,000 volumes a year.

The college has the usual junior college programs: a two-year liberal arts program leading to transfer to a four-year college in order to obtain a bachelor's degree, a number of technical and vocational programs which are terminal in nature in two years' time, and an adult education program for the community at large. The library's holdings reflect all aspects of this curruculum. They are strongest in literature and the social sciences and in the area of petroleum engineering. There is a good basic reference collection and some good periodical runs. The library has been fortunate in the quality of the librarians that have headed it and this shows in the excellent collection that has been brought together. It is of a completely different type than that located in the public library and therefore supplements rather than duplicates it, which is fortunate for this small community.

## General Assessment

Now that the resources of each of the academic libraries in the region have been assessed in turn, it might be well to comment on the overall picture as it looks to an outsider. There is, first of all, extensive duplication in the holdings of the academic libraries. So many of the schools stress the same subjects in their curriculum that there is strength everywhere in the same subjects--English, education, business administration, and religion. Certain subjects appear, on the other hand, to be woefully neglected. These include Latin American studies, foreign language materials of all types (including, surprisingly enough, Spanish language and literature), Russian history and literature, fine arts (perhaps because the materials are so expensive), philosophy (much neglected in favor of religion), and the natural sciences, particularly physics and astronomy. Materials for non-Western studies are practically nonexistent.

All of this is, of course, largely the result of the neglect of these subjects in the curricula of the various academic institutions which the libraries serve, but it does mean that, for certain vital areas of knowledge, the region has few if any resources, unless these can be supplied by the public or special libraries of the area. In view of the financial condition of most of these, this is quite unlikely.

## Use of the Academic Libraries by the General Public

All of the academic libraries in the area have been most generous in letting the general adult public use their collections. This includes both use within the building and home loans. Some libraries charge a small fee or at least ask for a deposit if the borrower is not known to them, but in general there are as few barriers as possible to use by anyone who has a legitimate need. This is a welcome attitude in a day when more and more academic libraries in other parts of the country are closing their doors to outsiders. It must be said, however, that use of the academic libraries by outsiders is minimal. If it should increase to such an extent that it interfered with the service that must be given to faculty and students there could very well be a change in policy on the part of the academic libraries, and justificably so, since their prime responsibility is service to their own constituents. None of them has a large enough staff to cope with very much of an added burden of service. This is why almost all of them will not serve high school students, as they might otherwise be inundated by large groups, particularly those such as Angelo State and McMurry that have new and attractive buildings.

## Cooperation Among Libraries in the Region

The academic libraries have long cooperated among themselves to make their resources freely available to each other. In Abilene any student or faculty member at any one of the three colleges may borrow books from one of the other two just by presenting his college identification card. Furthermore, for many years, there has existed a Union List of Periodicals of the serial holdings of these three libraries as well as those of the Abilene Public Library. As a result, there has been considerable lending to the public library as well as among themselves. The fact that the Director of the Abilene Public Library was formerly Librarian of Hardin-Simmons University has undoubtedly contributed to this sharing of resources. The latest edition (the 7th) of this Union List, published in 1967, was expanded to include the periodical holdings of the other three academic institutions in the region as well as those of Brownwood Public Library, Howard County Library, Scurry County Library, Sweetwater City-County Library, and Tom Green County Library. This is an extremely valuable tool for the region. An eighth edition should be brought out soon to include the greatly increased holdings at Angelo State College, some of which are unique in the region, or are at least more extensive than those of the other libraries.

Outside of Abilene the patterns of cooperation between academic and public libraries are quite different. In San Angelo, it has in the past been the public library that has supplemented the service rendered by the college library rather than vice versa. This was because until two years ago the facilities and holdings of the Angelo College Library were completely inadequate to serve its student body. Now it would seem that the tables might be turned, but as yet the situation is too new and untried for this to have occurred on any noticeable scale.

In Brownwood there is almost no contact between the public library and its patrons and the Howard Payne College Library. This is most unfortunate, as they are only a few blocks apart and the college library is in a position to fill many of the demands for periodical articles and reference and book materials of a specialized nature that the public library cannot supply and that it has been requesting from Abilene. The college library is quite willing to serve the public within the limits of staff time.

In Big Spring the Howard County Junior College Library serves as a reference center for the industry and some citizens in the area. It also loans a considerable number of books to the public library. It is quite willing to do all of this since it is supported by local tax funds, and service to the community at large is one of its functions. It also creates good will towards the college. It would appear that the citizens of this community think of the Howard County Public Library only in terms of recreational reading and turn to the Junior College Library for their informational needs.

The three academic libraries which are U.S. government document depositories (Hardin-Simmons, in Abilene, Angelo State in San Angelo, and Howard Payne in Brownwood) are required by law to give service with these materials to all the citizens of the Congressional District in which they are located. The general public is not aware of this, however, and so makes almost no demands on these collections. In the rural part of the region, government documents are chiefly made available through the county agricultural agents.

## Use of Academic Libraries Outside the Area

None of the academic libraries in the area has a large enough collection to serve all the needs of its faculty and students. It must therefore depend on larger libraries in the state or outside the state to supply these needs, largely through interlibrary loan or through the supply of photocopies of periodical articles. The libraries of the region vary in those libraries to whom they turn for the majority of their interlibrary loan and photocopy requests. Those in Abilene and Brownwood look first to the University of Texas in Austin, while those in San Angelo and Big Spring turn first to Texas Tech in Lubbock. Those who do look first to the University of Texas, place their second largest number of requests with Texas Tech. The principal private university used for filling requests is Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Angelo State College is linked with the other state institutions of higher education by a TWX line. In general the other colleges have no such link outside the area.

In March of 1967 the Southwest Academic Library Consortium was formed by the academic libraries of New Mexico, West Texas and the Panhandle of Oklahoma. The three libraries in Abilene are charter members, but Angelo State, Howard County Junior College, and Howard Payne College (probably too far to the east) have not participated in the meetings so far. The Consortium has explored various methods of cooperation, particularly in the area of acquisitions and interlibrary loans. They have talked of producing a union list of serials, of agreeing on specialization by subject fields, and of some mutually exclusive serial purchases. In 1967-68 they unsuccessfully sought a Federal grant to explore the possibility of teletype or WATS (Wide-Area-Telephone-Service) connections to facilitate interlibrary loan, or other means of cooperation.

It is to be hoped that although Angelo State's primary ties are to the state higher education network that it also will participate in the discussions and work of the Southwest Consortium especially since Texas Tech, the University of Texas at El Paso and West Texas State University are already members. The area could only benefit if something concrete were to come of the work of the Consortium.

In the Holley report of 1968[1] mention was made of the possibility of the three Abilene colleges extending their cooperation to include cooperative acquisitions and processing. This surveyor believes this to be a worthwhile goal, but first the colleges themselves must agree on what the curriculum emphases of the various schools are to be before the libraries can begin to think of drawing up lines of cooperation in acquisitions. If all the schools are going to strive to have equally strong departments in all the liberal arts fields then the libraries of these institutions can do little but try to provide library support for all of these fields. Thus it would seem essential for administrators and librarians to get together and work out areas of specialization both in curriculum and library holdings. There are already some reciprocal agreements in force whereby work at one institution is accepted for credit at another, so this should not prove too difficult a move.

As for a cooperative processing center, the total work load, if limited to these three institutions, would probably not be great enough to permit of any savings, especially since Hardin-Simmons and McMurry use the LC classification system and ACC intends to remain with Dewey. This does not preclude a cooperative arrangement such as that practiced by the Hampshire Library Center in Massachusetts which limits subscriptions to rarely used periodicals to one library in the area and frees funds for the purchase of other serials not previously held by any library. Specialization in book purchasing is harder to achieve when none of the libraries is really yet of a size that permits it to go beyond supplying the minimal needs of its own campus clientele.

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[1] Edward G. Holley and Donald D. Hendricks. Resources of Texas libraries. (Austin: Texas State Library, 1968) p. 111.

## Summary

It is clear that the academic libraries in the 36-county area possess resources which no other libraries in the area have. They are by far the largest libraries in the area and have the largest professional library staffs. Four of these libraries are private institutions faced with ever-increasing financial problems and cannot be expected to open their doors to all in the area without some form of financial recompense. New York State has shown that utilization of private college library resources is feasible if adequate compensation can be provided, but unfortunately this area does not have the wealth of New York State. The question of whether the two libraries supported from public tax monies can and should offer service to a wider public is a debatable one. All college libraries must first serve their primary clientele - students and faculty - and only then can they be expected to extend it to outsiders.

It would appear at the present time that while the academic libraries may have the resources, they do not have large enough staffs to serve outsiders to any great extent. Several have indicated that they can handle a normal load of interlibrary loan without undue hardship, but that they could offer reference service only by adding to their staffs; such staff additions, for outside service, would have to be paid for from outside funds. Somehow, though, it should be possible to tap the riches of these academic libraries so that all the citizens of the region benefit.

# VIII. THE SCHOOL LIBRARIES OF THE REGION

This chapter makes no attempt to cover all the libraries in the school districts of the region, nor does it treat in depth those which are commented upon. In view of the focus of the survey on public library service, for reasons noted in the Introduction, attention is centered here on selected school libraries in communities in which are also located public libraries. The large number of school districts in the region precluded visits to more than a few. Much valuable information was received through the School Library Consultant staff of the Texas Education Agency. Also included here is information from local public librarians, chiefly on the extent of cooperation and joint activity undertaken locally.

## Personnel

Unlike the public librarians, the school librarians of Texas are required to meet certain qualifications in order to serve in the public schools of the state. It is safe to assume, therefore, that when the word "librarian" is used, the incumbent has a college degree and sufficient professional education to meet the certification requirements. A Master's degree in librarianship is not required for this credential, but a substantial amount of professional education is necessary. The following table gives the professional complements (courtesy Texas Education Agency) for school districts in 23 of the region's 36 counties:

Table XVIII: SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IN THE REGION (23 of the 36 counties)

| County | District | Librarians |
|---|---|---|
| Baylor | Seymour | One secondary librarian<br>1079 students<br>3 buildings |
| Brown | Brownwood | One elementary, two secondary librarians<br>4950 students<br>8 buildings |
| Crockett | Crockett Schools, Ozona | One secondary librarian<br>947 students<br>4 buildings |
| Foard | Crowell | One secondary librarian<br>474 students<br>2 buildings |
| Hardeman | Quanah | One secondary, one systemwide librarian<br>1097 students<br>4 buildings |
| Howard | Big Spring | Two elementary, four secondary, one districtwide librarian<br>7052 students<br>16 buildings |
| Jones | Hamlin | Two secondary librarians<br>892 students<br>4 buildings |
| | Stamford | One secondary librarian<br>(No further information available) |
| | Anson | One elementary librarian |
| Kent | Jayton | One systemwide librarian<br>247 students<br>2 buildings |
| Knox | Munday | One librarian<br>581 students<br>3 buildings |
| Martin | Stanton | One secondary librarian<br>785 students<br>2 buildings |

Table XVIII (cont.)

| County | District | Librarians |
|---|---|---|
| McCulloch | Brady | One elementary, one secondary librarian<br>1257 students<br>5 buildings |
| Mitchell | Colorado City | Two secondary librarians<br>1618 students<br>5 buildings |
| Nolan | Sweetwater | Two secondary librarians<br>3055 students<br>8 buildings |
| Reagan | Reagan Schools | One elementary, one secondary librarian<br>885 students<br>(No further information available |
| Runnels | Ballinger | One elementary, one secondary librarian<br>1302 students<br>3 buildings |
| San Saba | San Saba | One secondary librarian<br>842 students<br>3 buildings |
| Scurry | Snyder | Six elementary, two secondary, two districtwide librarians<br>3355 students<br>9 buildings |
| Shackelford | Albany | One secondary librarian<br>536 students<br>2 buildings |
| Sterling | Sterling City | One secondary librarian<br>223 students<br>1 building |
| Sutton | Sonora | One secondary librarian<br>854 students<br>4 buildings |
| Taylor | Abilene | Ten secondary, one elementary, one systemwide supervisory librarian<br>17,683 students<br>31 buildings |

Table XVIII (cont.)

| County | District | Librarians |
|---|---|---|
| Tom Green | San Angelo | Two elementary, six secondary, two systemwide librarians<br>13,596 students<br>22 buildings |
| Wilbarger | Vernon | One elementary, one secondary librarian<br>2439 students<br>5 buildings |

The above figures reveal at least 70 school librarians in the region; the total is undoubtedly higher when we consider that only 23 of the 36 counties are listed. Allowing for the specialized nature of the professional training in school librarianship received by this group, it nevertheless constitutes a body of professional training and experience unmatched in numbers by any other type of library in the region, and also widely distributed in the entire region. The importance for possible cooperation of this large and far-flung group can hardly be exaggerated.

Financial Support

Per pupil expenditure is the measure applied to school library budgets by the Texas Education Agency, and is also one of the more important quantitative (and by implication, qualitative) measures listed in the recently published Standards for School Media Programs[1]. Because of the relatively small numbers of students to be served, the controlled conditions and the close correlation with curriculum, a per capita measure is much more valid in a school situation than it is generally agreed to be in a public library's budget. In schools as in public libraries, however, it is recognized that a very small unit must have a higher per capita income in order to provide comparable service to that of the larger unit.

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[1] American Association of School Librarians. Standards for School Media Programs. (Chicago: ALA, 1969)

Local expenditures for school library materials have been supplemented in many of the districts listed by federal funds made available through the Texas Education Agency under Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In some cases, new library services have been initiated as a result of this financial assistance, especially in elementary schools. However, here as elsewhere, the secondary schools are more likely to have libraries, librarians, and --because they are older -- much stronger collections. The following table gives per pupil expenditures for library materials from local funds:

Table XIX: PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES: SELECTED SCHOOL LIBRARIES OF THE REGION

| County | District | Per Pupil Expenditures | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1965-66 | 1966-67 | 1967-68 (budgeted) |
| Baylor | Seymour | $1.47 | $1.76 | $3.86 |
| Brown | Brownwood | $1.86 | $1.63 | $1.94 |
| Crockett | Crockett | 6.24 | 4.54 | 5.00 |
| Foard | Crowell | 2.76 | 1.77 | 2.20 |
| Hardeman | Quanah | 4.10 | 1.97 | 3.42 |
| Howard | Big Spring | 2.37 | 2.65 | 3.68 |
| Jones | Hamlin | 4.06 | 4.31 | 4.34 |
| | Stamford | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| | Anson | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| Kent | Jayton | 6.07 | 9.20 | 15.58 |
| Knox | Munday | 2.75 | 3.15 | 3.33 |

Table XIX (cont.)

| County | District | Per Pupil Expenditures | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1965-66 | 1966-67 | 1967-68 (budgeted) |
| Martin | Stanton | 3.21 | 3.25 | 4.09 |
| McCulloch | Brady | 2.23 | 1.80 | 2.84 |
| Mitchell | Colorado City | 1.42 | 3.28 | 6.59 |
| Nolan | Sweetwater | 3.00 | 2.61 | 1.46 |
| Reagan | Reagan | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| Runnels | Ballinger | 1.93 | 2.56 | 3.43 |
| San Saba | San Saba | 3.08 | 2.99 | 2.36 |
| Scurry | Snyder | 7.72 | 8.67 | 8.46 |
| Shackelford | Albany | 5.49 | 3.33 | 3.58 |
| Sterling | Sterling City | 14.10 | 25.86 | 22.65 |
| Sutton | Sonora | 2.59 | 2.74 | 2.54 |
| Taylor | Abilene | 4.57 | 3.81 | 4.52 |
| Tom Green | San Angelo | 2.85 | 2.15 | 1.80 |
| Wilbarger | Vernon | 2.65 | 1.22 | 6.44 |

## Collections

To a fair degree, the quality of the library collections may be assumed from the income for materials listed. Since the figures cover a three-year period, one can see which districts have increased their expenditures for library materials, which have dropped back, which have remained fairly stable. Some of the school libraries have the responsibility for providing audio-visual materials for school use, others do not. Because of the relatively recent availability of ESEA assistance, the general level of collections is not high for the region. Elementary school libraries, in particular, are relatively new and do not yet receive the professional attention given to the secondary school libraries. Exceptions do occur in the region; some of the school libraries give evidence of a good level of support and a good deal of attention from the administrators of the school districts. Among those which appear to have done well are:

Crockett Schools in Ozona
Quanah Schools of Hardeman co.
Big Spring Schools in Howard co.
Hamlin Schools in Jones co. (secondary level)
Jayton Schools in Kent co.
Stanton Schools in Martin co.
Snyder Schools in Scurry co.
Albany Schools in Shackelford co.
Sterling City Schools in Sterling co.
Abilene Schools in Taylor co.

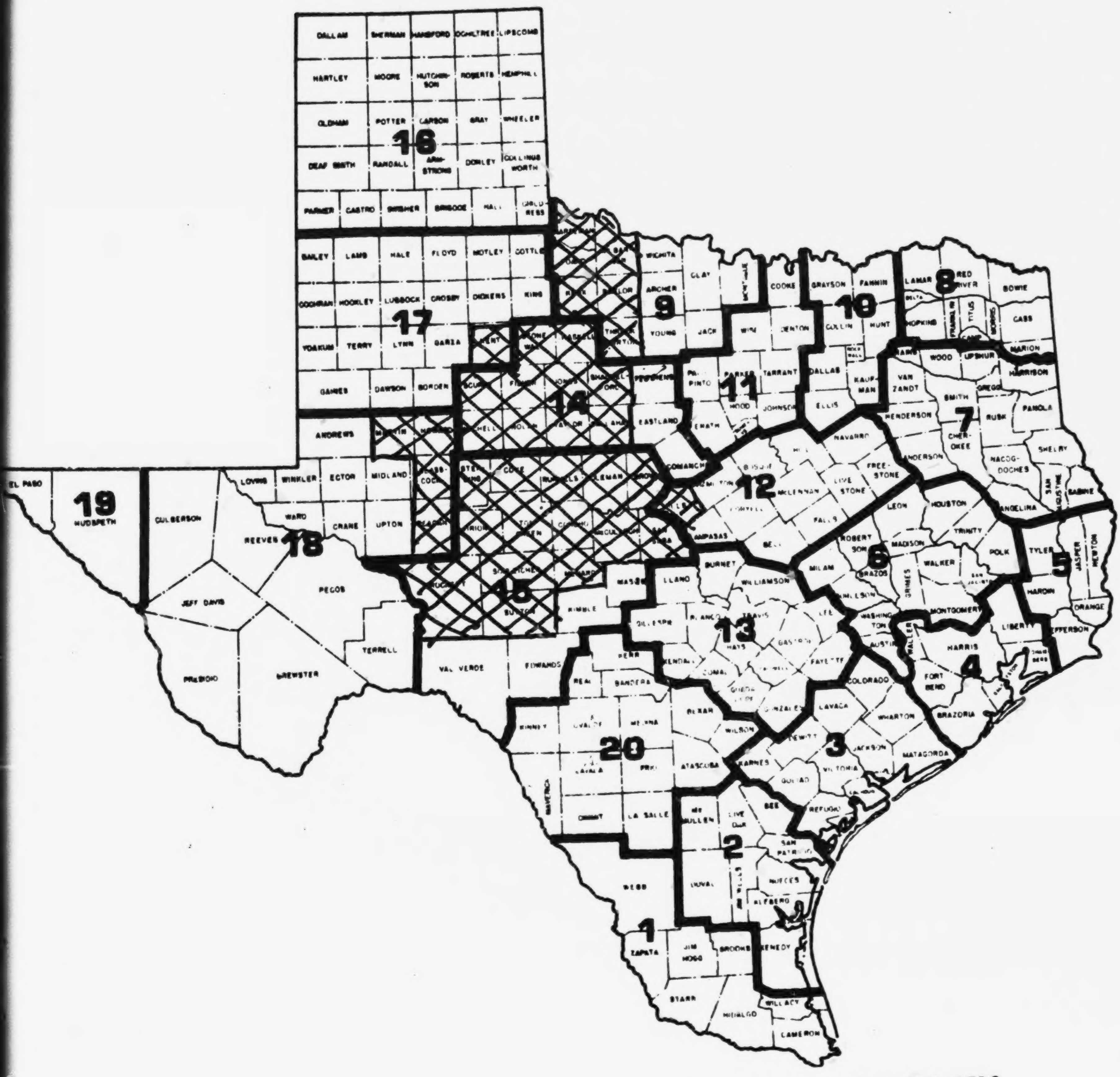
Individual schools in San Angelo are relatively strong and innovative in program, although total support for the district is low on a per capita basis.

Up until recently, little special provision for children from Spanish-speaking families has been made. It has been assumed that these students will read in English, the language in which they are taught. The Negro minority is, of course, English-speaking, and some materials by and about Negroes and their African heritage have been provided, but the increased interest in African and Afro-American studies requires a great many more. Increased attention to the needs of minority students at the state level has brought about legislation which will result in the availability of more materials for these groups, beginning in the school year 1968-69.

While there is, in the region, considerable variation among school districts in support and collections, there do not exist the wide discrepancies found in the public library sector. The credential requirement assures a librarian with professional training; other state requirements assure teachers, administrators, etc.

of professional caliber, thus the curricula are somewhat comparable. Because of the increase of school libraries and funds for school library materials with the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a number of bibliographic aids for school library collection building have been compiled and published. These sources provide carefully prepared and balanced lists of materials appropriate for school collections, and, while intended chiefly to assist teacher-librarians and others without professional library training, are also useful to and widely used as supplementary sources by librarians who possess the necessary skills. The school libraries of the region may be said, therefore, to contain books appropriate for the use intended, although some are old and worn and many collections too small and weak. There are not, in the school sector as there are in the public library group, libraries with no book funds, libraries depending completely on gifts and fund-raising projects, libraries selected by non-librarians exclusively.

Audiovisual materials are provided locally in some school districts, but recently the Texas Education Agency has set up Regional Media Centers throughout the state, to provide or to supplement this type of material. The Abilene Center, for example, serves 13 counties (See Map IX) with 16 mm films, filmstrips, records, audiotapes, and transparencies. The Center also duplicates audiotapes, transparencies, 2x2 slides, tapes and filmstrips for use of schools in their district. These Centers are so new that their impact had not been fully felt at the time of the surveyor's visit, but they appear to add a needed resource to the region, not only in their primary role as purveyors of media for teaching purposes, but also possibly in a broader capacity.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MAP IX. AREAS SERVED BY TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY MEDIA CENTERS

## Coordination and Cooperation Among School Libraries

Each school district's libraries are independent, and, except for the state's certification requirement and the regulations governing use of ESEA funds, supervised by school administrators. The school library consultants of the Texas Education Agency make occasional visits to the libraries from time to time, and receive reports from them of their expenditure of federal funds, but they exercise no direct supervision of their operations. The Texas Association of School Librarians is an active and influential professional association, which has, along with the library division of the Texas Education Agency, brought the state's school libraries as a whole into high regard nationally. But the Association exercises no supervision; its effect is felt as a result of its meetings, publications, and programs.

Within school districts, there is some coordination of library programs. In smaller districts, this means at most only coordination of the activities of two or three library locations. Among the 70 librarians noted earlier, only nine are designated specifically as having systemwide responsibilities. It appears, therefore, that most of the school librarians are in charge of relatively small units, and that coordination is either slight or non-existent in most places. In Abilene, there is a systemwide supervisor of school libraries, including elementary school libraries which are in the charge of clerks. Purchasing of materials is centralized, as is the cataloging of elementary books. Secondary books, however, are cataloged and processed by the individual librarians. The San Angelo Schools have a processing center for elementary libraries also.

No regional coordination exists except that offered by the new Regional Media Centers. At present, their activities are media-oriented, and, as has been noted, their service is quite new. It seems probable that, for some time, they will concentrate on publicizing and encouraging use of the materials they have to offer, since at present it appears that many of the teachers of the region have not made much use of instructional media in the classroom. At some later date, however, these Centers may well expand their operations and offer such services as centralized purchasing and processing to the school libraries in their districts.

## Existing Cooperation with Public Libraries

In Texas, from the state level downward into the local, school and public libraries are administratively separated. As we have noted, coordination of school libraries is centered in the Texas Education Agency; that of public libraries in the Texas State Library's Field Services Division. Cooperation among libraries of the two types, at the local level, therefore, is not automatically encouraged at the state level, even though both are supported with public funds, including some administered by the State.

Local cooperation is not widespread, nor is it intensive in any locality. What cooperation exists comes as a result of local initiative, on the part of one or both of the parties. In many localities, the public librarian reported that she barely knew the school librarian, was unacquainted with school library resources, did not coordinate purchasing or service in any way, and had never thought of doing so. In other cases, the two librarians were qcquainted, the public library served the school in various ways, and there was a general but vague feeling that cooperation from the school library would be forthcoming if requested. No active cooperative efforts existed, however, nor had the public library ever requested cooperation or assistance from the school librarian. A few public librarians expressed the opinion that the school would not (or could not, legally) make interlibrary loans or give service of any kind to non-students through the public library. Only one or two of the public libraries had genuine professional contacts with local school libraries, of a reciprocal nature, such as exchange of periodical subscription lists and avoidance of duplicate subscriptions. Such planned holdings of periodicals presupposes the offering of reciprocal use, although there was, in the cases noted, little use of the school resources by the general public.

On the whole, the stronger schools (in terms of income and personnel) seem to be found in those communities which are also the sites of the stronger public libraries. There are, however, notable exceptions. For example, the secondary school in Hamlin is quite well supported, while the public library is barely maintaining its existence. The same comment applies to Sterling City, and there are other communities in which the resources of the school library appear to be relatively strong, when compared with those of the public agency. In a good many cases, this situation does not betoken a strong school library and a poor public library, but merely that, of two weak services, that of the school library is better than a new or semi-public library.

To both school and public librarians, cooperation is thought of primarily as a one way street. The public library is, in the minds of both parties in many communities, primarily in existence to supplement the school library's service to its student body. It is not surprising that this attitude is held by teachers, students, and school librarians, since such service is, as has been noted earlier, in fact a primary activity of many of the public libraries. For example, the public library bookmobile service in Tom Green County is almost entirely for children, the stops are at schools, and the school librarians think of this service as a supplement to that of the school libraries. In many communities both sides discuss school-public library cooperation in terms of letting the public library do all the cooperating. In view of the extremely weak public libraries in the region, this view is unfortunate. Further cooperation, of a more nearly reciprocal nature, might benefit both sides, and the recommendations in the final Chapter of this Report will contain further comments on this topic.

The topic of school libraries and school-public library cooperation should not be closed, however, without notice of one signal contribution toward public library service on the part of some individual school librarians. School librarians have, in some communities, been active in promoting the establishment of the public library. In at least one of the counties with no public library service, school librarians have worked with the State Library and interested citizens to establish public library service. As has already been noted, the school librarian in the Ozona schools has been successful in obtaining from Crockett County funds for public library service, and has also obtained gift funds from a private Foundation to assist in starting the public service. This public service is at present combined with the school library; the "public" quarters adjoin the regular school library space on the second floor of the school building. School library materials, including reference books, are available to the general public, and the school librarian serves both groups, offering some evening service to the adult public. Materials for children are also being added. This effort is quite new, and gives the general public of Ozona and Crockett County the advantages of an established collection and the services of a professional librarian. Quarters for the adult service are unusually handsome.

While there are some shortcomings, form the public library viewpoint (e.g., an adult "reading" collection, but relatively little subject material for such groups as business and industry) the service compares favorably with that offered in many of the neighboring counties. It is looked upon as temporary, since the school library will eventually expand into the space now occupied by the adult reading room. At that date, it is hoped that the county will provide space, budget, and staff for a separate public library.

# IX. THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES

A "special library" is usually defined as one limited to a particular clientele, a particular subject, or both. It is normally the library of an institution, and confines its clientele and materials to the members and interests of that institution. This definition does not satisfy, since it does not exclude school and academic libraries. Nevertheless, a broad definition is needed to encompass all libraries listed as "special" in some directories of the genre. The term is really a kind of catch-all which embraces libraries not included in the other, more clearly defined types.

The Texas Special Libraries Directory[1] lists only a handful of special libraries in the region, none of which is of major importance in the existing picture of regional cooperation. Seven of the libraries are medical, nursing, or hospital libraries. Of these, three are in San Angelo, and two each in Abilene and Big Spring. Collections are not large, and are, in most cases, not available for loan through other libraries. The resources of the National Library of Medicine, however, are available to any qualified user through a national network.

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[1] Texas Special Libraries Directory, 1967. (Austin: Texas State Library, Field Services Division, 1968).

Table XX: MEDICAL, NURSING, & HOSPITAL LIBRARIES, 1967

| Location | Library | Vols. | Periodical Subs. | Services |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abilene | Hendrick Memorial Hospital | 1,572 | 26 | Copies |
| | School of Nursing Library | | | |
| Abilene area | Dyess Air Force Base Hospital Medical Library | 811 | 50 | |
| Big Spring | Big Spring State Hospital | 1,221 | 10 | |
| | Veterans Administration Hospital | 1,647 | 80 | Lends |
| San Angelo | Clinic-Hospital of San Angelo | N.A. | 14 | |
| | St. John's Hospital | 175 | 2 | |
| | Shannon West Texas Memorial Hospital | 573 | 36 | Copies |

Although by definition, a special library is not usually also a general library, two of the region's special libraries do serve the general reader with general reading materials. One of these is combined with one of the medical libraries noted above. The Veterans Administration Hospital in Big Spring, in addition to its medical service, maintains a patients' library of 2,635 volumes and 108 periodical subscriptions. This library does make interlibrary loans, and does cooperate with the Howard County Public Library.

The other general library, also a federal operation, is the Dyess Air Force Base Library near Abilene. This library, which is separate from the medical one, has a sizable collection of about 20,000 volumes and 81 periodical subscriptions. It serves the base's personnel and their families as a general library, and thus has a good-sized collection of fiction (approximately 5,000 titles) and a good many children's books. Since there is an elementary school on the base, this library also serves as a school library for elementary grades, and gives a supplementary service to students who attend other schools. Service to teachers, and tours of the library for teachers and classes, are a featured service. In many ways, a base library of this type bears a resemblance to a public library, and does, in fact, perform public library services for its clientele. The average family remains at the base for a brief period, usually no more than two or three years, a fact which affects the library's collection and service. The library does, on occasion, call the Abilene Public Library for information or interlibrary loans, and is, in turn, called on occasion by the public library. Of the college libraries in Abilene, McMurry is the one with which the base library has closest relationships.

The base library at Dyess is the only military library installation in the region which contains a sizable collection of general materials. Webb Air Force Base Library near Big Spring, has a large collection (approx. 13,000 volumes and 100 periodical subscriptions) on the subject of aviation. This library lends to other military libraries and to local libraries. Goodfellow Air Force Base, near San Angelo, does not list a library, and any resources available there would presumably be of a specialized nature, since the installation's work is highly specialized.

Although, as will be noted, a good many of the region's special libraries are federal and military or military-related installations, there is apparently no official cooperation among them. Each is a separate and independent library. There appears to be no network, no organized sharing of resources.

In large communities and metropolitan areas, the special library group is usually made up primarily of company libraries, with specialized resources for the use of the research and development personnel of their firms. This situation, however, does not occur in our 36-county region, probably because large and heavy industry cannot locate plants there because of lack of sufficient water. The smaller manufacturing companies noted earlier as existing in the region are either too small to warrant the establishment of company libraries, or are, in some cases, local branches of larger companies based elsewhere. The lack of such company libraries in the region points up the need for public library service to the companies already there, and those the region hopes to attract.

The General Telephone Company of the Southwest maintains in San Angelo the largest library of this type in the region. Its book collection of approximately 3,000 is small, but it receives 150 current periodicals on its subjects of concentration: telecommunication, electrical engineering, and business. In most special libraries of a technical nature, the journals are of more importance than the books, because of the need for current information by the research and development personnel. This library has a good reference collection in its field. It lends books, but not reference or current periodicals, on interlibrary loan.

These, aside from small collections of the Abilene Reporter-News and the Brownwood D.A.R. constitute the region's special library resources. As has been indicated, they are meagre compared with those of many other parts of the state and the nation, and make all the more urgent the utilization of other resources in the region, whether in academic or public libraries, for the benefit of the user with specialized needs.

# X. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the Introduction to this Report, several major recommendations of a general nature were noted. In brief form, these had to do with (1) publicity--awareness of the importance of books, information, libraries (2) cooperation--continuation and extension of existing cooperation (3) planning--setting long-range goals for the libraries of the region as a whole, and (4) strengthening the MRC, in materials and staff.

Before embarking on specific recommendations, it is important to underline one or two general principles: first, improvement of library service cannot be accomplished without increased support. Cooperation can help make most efficient use of resources, but it cannot create resources where they do not exist. Cooperation among poor or mediocre libraries does not miraculously create good libraries. A quality product, even one of modest quality as this Report recommends, costs money; it is, however, worth every penny which is spent upon it. And secondly, cooperation implies a partnership. It is manifestly unfair for some communities to sit back and enjoy the benefits of the MRC, the Area Libraries, the resources of the academic libraries, the Regional Media Centers, and the statewide program without putting anything into the cooperative effort. Smaller libraries of every sort must work hard to improve service, to provide locally what is most frequently needed, and to use the networks and cooperative activities as they are intended, as a supplement to local resources, not as a substitute.

## Attitudes toward Cooperation

While there is, in the region, a good deal of informal cooperation and a general good will among librarians, there is insufficient commitment to the idea of inter-type of library cooperation. As we have seen, the public libraries have their MRC and Area Library system, with its Telex connection outside the region. The academic libraries have their Consortium, which supplements the regional cooperation with an outside network whose aim is presumably a closer interlibrary loan relationship. Among the school libraries, the future seems to hold some type of coordination or cooperation under the aegis of the Media Centers.

The willingness of the academic libraries, especially in Abilene, to serve adult residents is highly commendable; the development of such projects as the Union List of Periodicals with its inclusion of academic and larger public libraries is another example of crossing of lines. But these are exceptions to the general rule of vertical rather than horizontal cooperation.

Even at the state level, we find a separation. In Austin, the Texas State Library's Field Service Division works with the public libraries of Texas, and gives some attention (insofar as statistical listings and publications are concerned) to academic libraries. The state-supported academic libraries are coordinated administratively. The school libraries are coordinated at the state level by the Texas Education Agency. In other words, the coordination of academic and school libraries is handled by the agencies which coordinate, at the state level, the institutions these libraries serve. There appears to be insufficient communication in Austin in connection with libraries qua libraries. The persons concerned seem aware of this problem, but there are undoubtedly difficulties inherent in the administrative structure.

Another administrative difficulty is the difference among the various plans for dividing the state into regions. The State Library's MRC program created the 36-county region under study, chiefly for public library cooperation. The Texas Education Agency's Regional Media Centers (Map IX) serve different regions, which overlap the MRC district at some points and depart from it at others. In 1968, Governor Connally announced still another split, which has as its objective the harmonizing of the multiplicity of divisions of the state made by various state agencies. Future divisions made by state agencies will be required to follow these Texas Planning Regions. The 36-county region would include the entire Concho Valley Planning Region, and all but three counties of the West Central Texas Planning Region. It would lose 7 counties, 3 to North Texas, 3 to Permian Basin, and one to Central Texas Planning Region.[1] This ruling is not retroactive, and the State Library's and TEA's regions need not be affected. Nevertheless, for coordination with other state agencies in the future, some realignment may be necessary. We have already noted that the West Central Texas Council of Governments' region includes two counties not in the MRC district. (Map VIII).

While the recommendations to follow will, of necessity, include many suggestions for types of libraries--especially public libraries, in view of the legislation and the commissioning of this Report--it will begin with some general recommendations of an inter-type or library nature.

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[1] "Connally Announces State to Split Planning Regions," Corpus Christi Caller Times, December 26, 1968. (Clipping).

## Cooperation among Types of Libraries

In the region, it is the academic libraries which have the strongest book resources, the school libraries which jointly provide the largest and most widely distributed professional staff strength, and the public libraries which have the state supported cooperative program with communication facilities, a regional plan for MRC and Area Libraries, and professional leadership which is highly respected throughout the region. The public libraries also contribute, it must be added, the most serious problems of inadequacy. How can this combination of strengths, weaknesses, and needs be utilized cooperatively for the benefit of all?

There is no intention, in this Report, to suggest that any citizen of the region, whatever his need, be given full and free privileges to use in person the resources of any library or any type. Such opening up of resources is much discussed among librarians; it may, in the future, become the pattern of all library use. In such a case, the differences among the types of libraries would become blurred or totally disappear, and some sort of overall library authority (probably at the state level, perhaps even federal) would administer all library services to bring to every user, of every sort, whatever library resources he needed. Many problems of finance, government, professional training, etc., will have to be tackled before any such major change can occur.

The cooperative measures recommended below assume that each library will continue to be governed as it now is, and continue to bend its major efforts to serve its primary clientele. Here, the roles of the school and academic libraries are clear; their clienteles are easily identified. The public library, on the other hand, is in a less fortunate position. It cannot so easily identify its clientele; it cannot confine its service to a particular group of readers nor refuse service to any comer with a valid need. Its use, by the primary clienteles of the other two types of libraries, is so taken for granted that in the past decade or more, most of the nation's public libraries have spent most of their staff time in serving the swelling student population. The statement above, that the public library cannot confine its services to a particular group of readers, may not, therefore, be altogether true, if examined in the light of this student use phenomenon. Without planning it, the public library is increasingly confining its service to students; without intending to do so, it is neglecting other parts of the population because of limited time and staff. Since in most cases, the population which is losing out on public library service is that part which has no other service to which to turn, the situation is doubly unfortunate. Since the unserved or partially served group usually includes the community's adult population--the voters and taxpayers and businesses who support the library--the dilemma of the public library increases.

Later in this Report, the suggestion will be made that the small public libraries play their fair part in the partnership among libraries by building up their collections and services so that they will not have to lean too heavily on the larger libraries. Later, also, it will be recommended that the larger public libraries, including the MRC and the Area Libraries, build resources, to avoid being a drain on the academic libraries. Under these circumstances, it seems fair to point out to the academic and school libraries how much of the public library's services are going to the students, and suggest that they, too, should be prepared to carry their full weight in the cooperation among the libraries of the region, and that to some extent the public libraries' service to students be considered a genuine quid pro quo in the sharing of resources to be proposed. If the academic and school libraries take the position that anything the public libraries do for schools, colleges and students is in the line of duty no matter what proportion of public library time and resources it takes, it is hard to see how the public libraries can make any service contribution which would be recognized as cooperation.

## Recommendations: Cooperative Activities for All Libraries

1. That local librarians of all types make definite efforts to become acquainted, visit each other's libraries, discuss what cooperation can be accomplished locally. Since each may wait for another to take the initiative, it is suggested that Area Librarians of the public library group invite all librarians in the respective areas, or parts thereof in large areas, to attend a meeting, agenda for which would be based on the recommendations of this Report. In order to make communication and meeting easy, the areas covered by such meetings should be relatively small, and meeting times should be set for the convenience of the largest number.
2. That these groups, in whatever size and combination of librarians turns out to be most feasible, continue to meet, appoint committees to study problems, involve lay people if it seems desirable, and plan together to improve the quality of library service for the areas in whatever ways may be called for by the local situation. That these small local groups

appoint representatives to meet on occasion with representatives of other small local groups, under the sponsorship of the MRC.

3. That whatever special resources are available (especially those for which public funds have been expended) such as vehicles, publicity specialist, photocopying equipment, duplicating equipment, audio-visual media, etc. be brought to bear on the total library problems of the area, and utilized either free or at cost for reasonable library purposes other than those for which they were originally provided.

4. That each library, of whatever type, develop its own resources to a point where the major needs of its own clientele can be satisfied, and depend upon other libraries only for specialized needs. The small public libraries should concentrate on becoming *good* reading and referral centers (see recommendation 10, pub~~lic l~~ibraries), the MRC and Area Libraries should strengthen resources to avoid calling too frequently on the resources of the academic libraries. School libraries should continue to strengthen their collections.

5. That at present, the existing cooperation, at a local level, between public and academic libraries should be continued. In Brownwood and San Angelo, it should be increased. In order to avoid placing too heavy a burden on the *staffs* of the academic libraries, which is where the problem is likely to occur, it is recommended that public library personnel do all the work that is feasible in connection with interlibrary loans. In Abilene, this would mean visits by a public library reference librarian to the three colleges and universities for

reference searches. This is desirable, since a public librarian is more familiar with the needs of public library users and more accustomed to giving this type of service on an individual basis. In Abilene, also, an arrangement could be developed whereby the public library would package and mail the interlibrary loans going out to the MRC from the colleges, thus saving academic library personnel. Deliveries in Abilene could also be handled by the public library. In Brownwood, the problem would probably be less serious. Nevertheless, when interlibrary loan activity became a burden to the college library, the public library might offer payment in staff time rather than in money. In San Angelo, the situation has changed so radically so recently that the two libraries have not adjusted to it. The college library is engaged at full tilt in adding and processing its new books, and has little time for other activities. If the public library could handle its own searches, it seems probable that the college would be better able to cooperate.

6. The colleges may be willing to share resources with local citizens, but feel that use of their resources by an entire Area or MRC is too great a strain. The strain may be felt in one of two places: staff or materials. As the previous recommendations have suggested, staff help might be forthcoming from the public library sector. If resources are the problem--if the academic program would be adversely affected by loans--then it is obvious that the academic libraries must call a halt. Even money payments would, in all probability, be of little help in such a situation, and it is suggested that, when the point is reached that the public

library needs of the region become too great a strain on the resources of the academic libraries, the Telex network be used, even for those materials available locally and not on reserve at local colleges.

7. Money payments are a possibility, or will become so when the new legislation is funded. At a later date, they may be necessary, if volume of use of academic libraries by public libraries increases.

8. At a later date, a delivery service among the larger libraries of the region may become feasible. Three-times-a-week service from Abilene to San Angelo and back by way of Brownwood would cover all but one of the region's academic libraries and the existing MRC and Area libraries. The increasing strength of the Angelo State College collection will make this institution increasingly important in the region; easy delivery of materials (without expensive and time-consuming wrapping and shipping) would ease the problems. It is possible that this service might, later, be undertaken by the MRC and serve as a quid pro quo in lieu of money payments from the public library group. The volume of interlibrary loans should be watched, to determine at what point a delivery system would become economical. The sophisticated studies of interlibrary loan by Maryann Duggan should be watched and utilized if applicable.

9. In the entire interlibrary loan procedure, among all libraries, records of the transactions should be kept, so that a review not only of the volume of service but especially of the specific requests may be made. If, for example, the public library requests many books on a specific topic from an academic library, the former should strengthen its

collection. The same principle applies to the local small public library's requests to the MRC.

10. It is recommended that, at present, the school libraries of the region use the MRC and Area Library facilities. At a later date, the Regional Media Centers may develop their own network. Before school libraries call upon the total network, however, it is recommended that they, too, utilize their own local resources to the fullest. In other words, the needs of a junior high school student may well be met in his local high school library. It would seem reasonable to expect that this resource would be tapped, whether by interlibrary loan or by allowing the student to use directly other school libraries in his own district, before the public library network is called upon.

11. It is recommended that the libraries of the region adopt a modified interlibrary loan code, of a type suitable for cooperating libraries of a region, rather than using the official national code, which is somewhat restrictive. Details can be worked out among the librarians, and may well vary as to requirements for types of libraries. Among the public library group, it is recommended that as few restrictions as possible be placed on lending. The service is relatively new; citizens of the region are frequently unaccustomed to the use of public libraries for information. Every encouragement to the use of the public library network should be given. For example, if possible it is suggested that the libraries absorb the mailing costs, rather than requiring the reader to pay. In view of the fact that the costs of requesting (by telephone or Telex), searching,

and shipping are borne by the libraries, it seems inconsistent and unwise to discourage the reader by asking him to pay postage. Later, after full use is being made, this policy might be reviewed.

12. All three Abilene colleges have strong collections in the field of education, since all train a good many teachers. It seems unnecessary, therefore, for the Abilene Public Schools to maintain a professional collection for teachers. Some arrangement could surely be made to give these teachers access to, and borrowing privileges for, these collections.

13. Another aid to the professional teacher maintained by the colleges is the textbook collections. If these are not known to, and available for examination by, the teachers of the public schools, it might be possible to make such an arrangement. In both these recommendations, there may be a fear on the part of the college libraries that their professional and textbook collections would be so heavily used by teachers that their students would be handicapped. This danger seems remote, and it is suggested that the arrangement be given a try.

14. If possible, periodical lists should be selected jointly by school and public librarians in each community, to avoid unnecessary duplication and to permit a wider coverage for a locality. This type of planning presupposes the use of any periodical by any user of either library. Such an arrangement already exists in one or two communities. There is no legal obstacle, the surveyor was informed by school authorities, to such cooperation.

15. Local librarians should explore the possibility of summer loans of school library materials to the public library while the school is closed. Children's books are in great demand in the public library during vacation because of the summer reading program sponsored by the State Library. It seems unfortunate that collections of children's books (often far better than those in the public library) purchased from public funds, are locked away in school buildings where they cannot be used.

16. Public librarians should obtain catalogs of the materials available in the Regional Media Centers (See Map IX). These materials are available at a modest rental for use by appropriate agencies, including libraries, and should be known and used.

17. It is recommended that at some future date the libraries of all types investigate the possibility of centralized processing for the region. This centralization would include all purchasing of publications of trade and university presses in the United States and Canada, utilizing large jobbers in order to obtain maximum discounts. If procedures can be worked out, it should include payment of bills directly. It would also include all cataloging, classification, and proparation for use of the books purchased through the center. The possibility of joint ordering of periodicals and journals through a subscription agent should also be explored, although these items should be delivered direct to each subscribing library. The cataloging of the center should follow the Library of Congress. If computer time becomes available, MARC tapes should be used. This service should be made available to school

libraries if they wish it, but if Media Centers are likely to take over such processing in the near future, school libraries will in all probability be expected to utilize that service. It is important that this possibility be investigated before any regional processing is begun, because its volume would be considerably curtailed by the loss of school library processing. It is recommended, also, that the possibilities of the tapes and computer be borne in mind. Book catalogs may be superior to cards and should by all means be seriously considered. A catalog of the MRC's holdings, for example, would be of great benefit to all the libraries in the region, and would speed up interlibrary loan. The same can be said of the academic libraries. Special-subject union catalogs could also be produced, as needed, in book form for distribution. Where such a center might be, and under whose immediate supervision, are questions to be considered by the Regional Council representing libraries of all types. This is a major undertaking, involving large expenditures and requiring expert planning. Outside consultants would have to be employed. Abilene or San Angelo seem, however, to be the natural locations to be considered, and the MRC or possibly Angelo State College as the supervising libraries. Space need not be found in either library, but should be sought on the fringes of either city, in relatively inexpensive quarters of the warehouse or automobile showroom type. Staff would include a director of the center whose skills were primarily in management and methods improvement. Most of the personnel would be nonprofessional; the success of the operation would depend on the skill with which the work-flow was managed, the employees supervised, the layout arranged, etc. To repeat, such an operation requires very careful planning and should not be undertaken lightly. Even when such a center is well planned, initial problems are many, and require the patience of the participating libraries. Along with the planning of the center itself, each institution involved would need to plan revised internal arrangements. Some space would be released from internal cataloging operations, and planning for its utilization would be necessary. Even more important, planning for the utilization of staff time requires a good deal of foresight. Some staff time would, undoubtedly, be released. Where and how, in the existing operation, to use it would be a major administrative problem. It is unlikely that any but the largest libraries would be able to give up one or more positions, and even these might find that the center only permitted them to postpone a request for additional staff, not to cut the existing number of positions. A major reason for suggesting that centralized processing be an item for long-range regional consideration, rather than being undertaken in a much more modest manner by the public library group, is that the public libraries of this region do not appear ready to take advantage of it immediately. Released time for community librarians must be utilized for the improvement of service, otherwise the center's benefits are partly lost. The program of stimulation, advice, and planning recommended late for the public libraries must precede any centralized processing for this group, so that the librarians will be eager to participate in the center because they are full of plans and ideas for improved service which they need time to implement. Furthermore, the Abilene Public Library, which would have to operate a public library center, must not be expected to take on too many time-consuming and ongoing projects at once. A processing center requires staff and supervision. If vacancies occur, if vacations and illnesses bring short staffs, if turnover is great and new people must be trained--in all these emergencies, a processing center must go on, regardless of cost. The entire operations of the member libraries are brought almost to a standstill if it does not. The Abilene Public Library, has resources and staff smaller than those of most MRC's, and is isolated from the easier recruitment possibilities of larger metropolitan areas. If it were to undertake to run such a center, it could be in serious trouble. Processing Center emergencies could curtail its reference services, its total MRC program, its own service to its community. Personnel from all these sources might have to help in a Center emergency, not to mention the time and energy of the director, who would have the major responsibility of coping with such a crisis. Abilene Public Library has a fine cataloging staff, under good direction, but it is not large enough to take on the processing of the other public libraries, and the total operation is too vulnerable to risk the dangers of an operation which, by its very nature, can badly hurt the total library program in an emergency.

## Recommendations for Cooperation Among Public Libraries

For this group, development of use of the MRC system is urgent. Such development has several facets: (1) Public understanding of the service, and knowledge of the availability of the service, is necessary (2) Library staffs need to learn how to transmit requests accurately after having interviewed the reader in order to be sure the request is clearly understood (3) Library staffs also require, in some cases, a clearer understanding of the information-providing function of the library and of the wealth of materials available (4) The mechanics of the process must be streamlined--transmission of requests and delivery of materials, with adequate but not excessively-detailed records of transactions.

The following recommendations do not follow the above order, but rather follow naturally from the recommendation which seems to the surveyor the most urgent. They do, however, as a group, contribute toward the group of needs listed above.

1. It is recommended that a vehicle (either the old bookmobile formerly used by the Abilene Public Library or a small square van) should travel to various parts of the region, carrying a good and varied selection of recent books on all subjects. Paperbacks should be included. The vehicle should make scheduled stops in most if not all of the library locations. Newspaper and radio-TV publicity should announce its coming, and the general public should be invited to visit it and inspect its contents on a given day. If possible, someone with knowledge of the books should be available to discuss them. Librarians should en-

courage their readers and other citizens to visit the vehicle and inspect its contents. If possible, feature stories of the books should be run in local papers. Citizens should be encouraged not only to look at the books, but also to fill out forms, available in the vehicle, requesting them. Local librarians should take into account these requests in making purchases. Books which cannot be purchased should be requested from the Area Library or the MRC. Readers should be prepared for a delay in view of the possibility that a number of requests may be waiting for a given title, but the Area Libraries and MRC should also attempt to duplicate some of the popular titles, especially paperbacks. This part of the vehicle's operation is aimed at arousing book consciousness and interest among the public. The vehicle would have another use, as a selection tool for librarians. In some cases, the contents of the bookmobile might be examined by librarians on the spot while it is in town especially school librarians, but a preferred recommendation is the following:

2. Area libraries, and the MRC for those community libraries not yet assigned to an area, should hold regular book selection meetings, at stated intervals. The librarians should determine whether meetings should occur twice a year, three times, four times, or oftener. Timing may vary from area to area. At the meetings, opportunity should be given to examine a selection of new and basic books, selected from:

    The collection of the Area Library
    The examination vehicle's stock
    Books obtained from publishers or dealers for the purpose

    The latter possibility should be explored. Some dealers or jobbers are willing to give this service, although they are more likely to do so if they can be assured of a volume of business which will justify the expense. Not all the areas could make such a commitment. In preparation for the meeting, staff-members of the Area Library, MRC, or other cooperating library, should examine some of the books and give oral reports on their possible usefulness. Neighboring libraries in the area should compare notes and buy cooperatively if they are undertaking the type of plan to be described below in recommendation #4. Community librarians should note what is available in the Area Library or MRC, and make recommendations for inclusions. At these meetings, suggestions should also be made for titles to be included in the supplementary collections available from the MRC. If time to attend can be arranged, school librarians should be invited to participate in meetings at which appropriate books are considered. If the region's school librarians should become able to take advantage of BOOKS ON EXHIBIT, which sends free annual exhibits of appropriate books for elementary and high school age, this, too, might become an intertype of library cooperative activity.

Note in connection with Recommendations 1 and 2: The National Book Committee is interested in sponsoring book evaluation centers in various parts of the country, including at least one which has few bookstores or extensive local libraries. If this project should be funded, the MRC region should be aware of the opportunity and be ready with an application.

3. While it was not recommended that the MRC proceed immediately to set up cnetralized processing for the public libraries of the region, orders placed through the vehicle or area book selection meetings might well be centralized, and sufficient catalog cards made in Abilene for all orders. This limited type of centralized processing would be easy and efficient, since orders and card preparation would be synchronized automatically.

4. Neighboring libraries should attempt to buy cooperatively and not to duplicate each other's general reading collections. This recommendation applies especially to the libraries of under 10,000 population. While some books are needed on hand at all times, others, for the general reader or browser, are interchangeable. When a small community's readers have read a book, it is likely to sit on the shelves and be seldom called for. If nearby libraries will select together, avoiding duplication of this type of general reading, they can develop a swap-system which sends to each the "read-out" books of the other on long-term loan. Catalog cards for books so loaned should be marked, and a list of titles in each loan should be sent to the borrowing library with the books. Swap arrangements of this type should be worked out by the librarians concerned, as to procedures, length of loan, number of books, etc. Possibility of loss on occasion should not deter the adoption of this suggestion if it is otherwise acceptable. If each library loses in circulation the same number of books for which it is unable to collect from the loser, the libraries are even

and owe each other nothing. It is suggested that, if the problem of loss is a worrisome one, records among the swapping libraries be kept for a fairly long period to allow losses to even out. Money collected for lost books should be sent to the owning library. It is strongly urged, however, that librarians bear in mind the fact that this arrangement practically doubles their popular and general offerings to their readers at little or no cost to themselves. Also, that the books are already "read-out" by the owning library's readers, and therefore of little further usefulness. Under such circumstances, it is foolish to allow an occasional loss to weigh too heavily in the evaluation of the project.

5. Supplementary collections from the MRC should be continued, and extended if possible. The three-month loan period should be extended when the size of collections available for this purpose warrants it. Three months is an insufficient time to allow for the full use of the books at the borrowing library. For example, an eager local reader might wish to read a dozen of the books, but could not manage to do in the short loan period. Another problem connected with the loans should be worked out, if possible. Libraries at some distance from Abilene have difficulty in picking up and returning the books. If the vehicle mentioned earlier could make an occasional trip for this purpose, the supplementary collections might be more readily used. Publicity stories about the new books should be made available for use in local newspapers if local libraries can arrange for this. Lists of the supplementary books should also be posted in clubs, stores, and other local meeting places.

6. In addition to the regular supplementary collections, it is recommended that the MRC purchase copies of distinguished and important books (of the type listed in the questionnaire in Chapter IV) for regularly scheduled travelling collections to be sent for a 3-month period to libraries requesting them. (Because of the nature of the books, three months seems sufficient; if, however, experience proves otherwise, the period should be changed). As a start, a shelf of about 25 titles should be assembled. They should be jacketed and prepared for circulation. A poster or sign should go with the collection, so that it can be used as a sort of special exhibit by the borrowing libraries. A newspaper story highlighting these particular books should be prepared for use with the collection. A schedule of libraries wishing the travelling exhibit should be made, taking into account geographic considerations. Books should circulate while on exhibit. At the end of the 3-month period, books should be (1) called for by the next library on the list, (2) sent by the library or (3) picked up by the MRC vehicle in order to move them to the next scheduled stop. Books still in circulation should be sent on as they are returned. If this project is a success, it should be expanded if possible to more than one collection on circuit at a time. Success should not be evaluated in terms of heavy circulation, since it is unreasonable to expect many readers in small communities to read widely from a collection of this type. The project should, however, be of great value to the discriminating, curious, and highly intelligent reader in each community, and should also stimulate the use of the local library and the interlibrary loan service.

7. The vehicle might also be used to pick up usable discards and unneeded gifts from libraries in the region, for possible use by other libraries in the region, for possible use by oth~~er libraries~~. It is, however, wasteful to use the vehicle for worn, torn, dirty, or outdated books which no library should want. Another possible manner of handling the exchange of such books, if not too many are involved, is to have each librarian bring them to the book selection meeting at the Area Library. All books formerly owned by any library should be fully withdrawn before either of these procedures is adopted. Whichever method is used, the books should be evaluated by a competent librarian before any library spends time and money on processing them.

8. There is urgent need in the region for a publicity agent for libraries and reading. Some of the libraries have staff-members capable of writing a good press release, preparing a booklist, or making a good display. No library, however, can spare the time needed for an all-out effort to make the region books- and library-conscious. If funds become available for personnel under the new Texas Library Systems Law, serious consideration should be given to the employment of a person with the right attributes for the following functions:

    (1) Give talks to clubs, officials, etc. about books, library services, the MRC and Area Library program, use of the library, etc. One or two good talks, if possible reinforced with audiovisuals, could be prepared, and the availability of the speaker made known through local librarians. If the

speaker is good, clubs and other groups will be requesting the service as it becomes known.

(2) Prepare a Newsletter about MRC and library activities to be sent not only to librarians and trustees but also to officials and friends of libraries. This recommendation has already been implemented by the Abilene Public Library and a newsletter has been prepared and sent out.

(3) Back up all activities of the MRC and Area Libraries with news releases, radio and television publicity, especially spot announcements, etc. Special occasions, such as county fairs, may offer special opportunities for larger publicity efforts. In cases where the community librarian already has good relationships with news media, the specialist would assist if wanted, but would not interrupt the highly desirable direct contact of the librarian with local news media; such contacts should, indeed, be encouraged.

(4) Give assistance and training to those librarians in the area who wish such help in connection with their own programs and publicity.

(5) Prepare travelling exhibits, posters, etc. for use in local libraries on request.

The publicist need not be a professional librarian, even if one could be obtained. He or she should, however, be interested in books and libraries. As a temporary measure before this recommendation can be carried out in toto, it is suggested that consideration be given to employment of the librarian of McMurry College as an occasional speaker in the region. He has had successful experience in public library bookmobile demonstrations, work which of necessity requires good public relations.

9. Publicity is of no value unless backed by performance. It is , therefore, important that every librarian in the region become fully aware of resources available through the MRC System, and not only make use of them when asked but do so automatically whenever the local resources do not supply what is wanted. Meetings at Area Libraries, whether for book selection purposes or otherwise, should provide time for browsing to become familiar with collections and other services. The same applies to the MRC meetings, whether for Workshops or other purposes.

10. The smaller libraries of the region are not, at present or in the foreseeable future, likely to be able to support independently the full range of library services. It is therefore recommended that they make a conscious and planned effort to become good reading center libraries, providing general reading on a variety of subjects for their clientele, and covering those topics of general concern: child care, homemaking, local business interests in general, hobbies, etc. All the recommendations previously made, such as swap arrangements, should be utilized to help this effort. By having clear-cut objectives as to what is provided locally, and by utilizing fully and freely the services made

available through the MRC system, they will be able to offer their readers much better service than is now possible. This recommendation implies, in many cases, more book funds, and possibly longer hours.

11. In order to utilize fully the MRC program, and thus free the smaller local libraries from any local responsibility for providing specialized services and materials, it is essential that the telephone be used to transfer special requests. Those libraries without telephones, in the library or immediately available, should make the small necessary expenditure, and, furthermore, should use the telephone to transmit requests. The major reason for telephoning requests is not speed, although that is sometimes an important consideration. It is rather that the Area Library or MRC may waste a good deal of time and finally send inappropriate material because of insufficient information sent by mail. On the telephone, special information about the user's need may be requested and relayed, questions about the possibility of sending a substitute title can be asked, etc. etc. The community library which does not telephone is unfairly placing a heavy burden on the library receiving the request. The idea that an economy is effected by using the mail is false.

12. Area Librarians and MRC personnel should, whenever it is possible, visit the librarians in their areas or the region. It is important to know what community library collections contain, what space problems exist, etc., etc. so that plans at the area and MRC level will be realistic.

13. The Brownwood Area Library group is small, close together, and can meet without too much difficulty. That which looks to San Angelo, however, is far-flung. Some of the librarians would have difficulty in getting away for meetings. It is recommended that there be consideration of the possibility of holding an occasional meeting in libraries other than that of the Tom Green County Library.

14. The Brownwood Public Library's collection, according to the questionnaire sent out in connection with this survey, needs further strengthening. A good many important reference books have been added recently, along with important nonfiction titles. It is recommended that a portion of the budget be set aside each year for purchase of basic and substantial nonfiction, perhaps concentrating on one or more subjects each year until the entire collection is up to the strength expected of an Area Library.

15. There is need for one or more additional Area Libraries in the region. The Scurry County Library is strong, easily meeting most of the criteria for area service. It is recommended that the Board and librarian accept this responsibility, if it is offered by the State Library, for the benefit of neighboring libraries, receiving, of course, compensation for undertaking the role. The new Area Library would be able to serve those libraries to the north and west which may be designated by the State Library, thus adding perhaps half a dozen libraries to the Area system and relieving the MRC of direct responsibility for them. It is unfortunate that the geographic location of Sweetwater is

inappropriate for its later undertaking the role of an Area Library. Another future candidate for this function is surely Howard County Library. At present, however, its space is too small for the necessary collections, nor has its budget been large enough to warrant the additional calls on its resources. When it makes its long-awaited move into new quarters, however, and presumably is able financially and spacewise to build its collection, it should be ready to take on Area Library status. When and if this time comes, it is recommended that consideration be given to extending this area southward, to relieve Tom Green County of the many libraries in the area, and also to create areas small enough to allow for meetings, etc. In the region's northernmost section, the Carnegie City-County Library in Vernon is the strongest, and the natural candidate for Area Library responsibilities, when it can bring its resources and services up to the standards required.

16. In order to be eligible to participate in the expected benefits of the expanded state program under the new law, every library should make sure it meets the criteria for public libraries of its size: legal establishment, Board(governing or advisory) submission of a budget, etc. These steps cost little or nothing, and may bring substantial rewards. For its region, The Council of Governments might be of assistance in these essentially administrative and legal matters.

17. The understanding of officials is necessary before any major improvement in local library service can be effected. Officials cannot be

expected to take the librarian's word unsupported by other evidence. It is therefore recommended that an information service geared especially to the needs of regional officials be established. A regularly-published list of useful titles (including many journal articles) should be sent to each official, with the suggestion that he call his community library to obtain any item on the list. The community library would call the MRC, which would either send the book immediately, or send a photocopy of an article. In order to assure that the items listed are of a sort that will be of genuine use to local officials, it is suggested that the West Central Texas Council of Governments be asked to look at the material before it is listed, at least, until the compiler is thoroughly familiar with needs. It is possible that the COG, or some other organization, might be able to give this project some financial backing. If the articles listed were also of use to businessmen, Chambers of Commerce, etc., its distribution might be expanded, and bodies of this type might help with costs of publication and copying. The purpose of this project would be twofold: to make the library of genuine assistance to governments, and to demonstrate to officials the type of information services available in the library, not only to government, but also to business, industry, and others--beyond the current pattern of service primarily to women and students.

18. In an attempt to extend service to the Spanish-speaking part of the region's communities, it is suggested that a collection of materials in Spanish, including many paperbacks, be assembled at the Tom

Green County Library, for borrowing by the libraries in the entire region. The Tom Green Library is suggested rather than the MRC at Abilene because of the larger proportion of Spanish-speaking people in the southern part of the region; the location, however, could be changed if experience proved it desirable. The collection could be assembled from the lists published by Projecto L ER, of materials in Spanish for adults. Included are many titles for people who have had little formal education. Books may be purchased from the Project. The libraries wishing to develop further use by Spanish-speaking residents would be able to borrow from San Angelo a small collection covering a variety of topics and interests. Spot announcements and newspaper stories in Spanish could accompany the collection. Priests, adult education teachers, and other in close touch with the community to be reached could be asked to cooperate in publicizing the project. In fact, it might be well, if this particular recommendation is adopted, to have a committee of such people who are in touch with the target group to advise the libraries on interests, procedures, publicity, etc. If possible, the Spanish-speaking group should be represented on the committee.

19. The professional leadership of the MRC in encouraging, stimulating, and advising the public libraries of the region should continue and be extended as soon as possible. Some of the previous recommendations, as well as those to follow, suggest increased responsibilities for the Area Libraries. To the extent that Area Librarians assume

them, the MRC will be relieved of direct responsibilities, but will, in all probability, be asked to assist the areas, at least at the beginning. Other assistance for the MRC will be needed if an active program can be undertaken. A public relations person has already been recommended, as a most urgently-needed first appointment. Other areawide consultants should later be added, with priorities determined in discussion with the region's librarians and boards. A number of the librarians, in interviews with the surveyor, believed a consultant in children's services would be of great value. Others mentioned the need for assistance in other specialties. For the occasional widespread need, the type of workshop already sponsored by the MRC will be adequate, and should by all means be continued. On occasion, too, an individual visit by a member of the MRC staff may assist with a special problem. But the value of workshops and one-shot visits is limited; certainly, it is enhanced by follow-up work.

20. Fairly early in the program, instruction should be given to local library personnel in interviewing readers in order to determine exactly what is needed and to transmit requests clearly. In all interlibrary loan arrangements, much time is lost because of unclear or insufficiently specific requests. Training in reference techniques, to supplement workshops already held, might be useful for this purpose as well as for its own sake. Correspondence courses, or programmed instruction in reference, have been used effectively by the Valley Information Service, Fresno, Calif., and the State Library of Ohio, respectively.

21. The staff strength of the MRC, from the Director down to the newest page, is of utmost importance for the entire effort. Turnover has been great, and has limited the amount of delegation possible by the Director and other top-level staff. While it is supposed to be difficult, and probably is difficult to attract professional librarians to the less cosmopolitan centers such as Abilene, it is not impossible. The school libraries presumably do attract professionals. The attractions of the larger cities of the region, all reasonably close to any part of it, include a number of concerts, plays, and other activities of the colleges and universities, along with other attractions. It seems almost certain that the main reason for the turnover among the professional staff of the Abilene Public Library is salary. Allowing, as one must, for a low statewide cost of living, the MRC's salaries are still low in comparison with those of other libraries in Texas. A glance at the salary schedule for the City of Abilene shows lower salary scales than those currently offered by other Texas public libraries as listed in Texas Placement News, issued by the Administrative Division of the Texas State Library.

22. A special effort at recruitment for the region, when plans are made and staff needs known, might be fruitful. Possible sources of new personnel might include: (1) interns from the Library School of the University of Texas, if that school still continues its internship program, and if positions in such programs as that of the region are approved for interns, (2) library trainees, beginning in the region as preprofessional

assistants, might be able to obtain scholarships and return to the region for professional service. A scholarship might be contributed by some of the businesses or industries of the region for this purpose, or perhaps a revolving loan fund would enable several persons to attend library school, (3) the region's new program might be attractive enough to recruit for the MRC a few young (or experienced ) librarians who want to be a part of an exciting new venture. The Reference Round Table of TLA, which is also an affiliate of the Reference Services Division of the American Library Association, is taking a great deal of interest in the statewide program, and may be helpful in the recruitment effort, as well as in other ways.

## For Future Consideration -- Public Libraries

23. The small county and community libraries will benefit a great deal from cooperation of the sort recommended. It has already been noted that, in order to carry their fair share of the cooperative effort, they should have increased local support. However, a long-range goal that should be borne in mind is the consolidation into multi-county units of some of the libraries. This possibility, local librarians assured the surveyor, is extremely remote, because of tradition and historic factors. Nevertheless, the recommendation must be made, as the most obvious and effective way of providing improved local service to form a foundation for the Area and MRC services. If officials have hesitated to consider this possibility because they believe a 'library' is a building, and that consolidation would mean the closing of all but one of the local facili-

ties, this is a misapprehension. Many county and multi-county libraries in the United States--in fact, the majority of them--contain more than one building. Local building, personnel, hours, need not be affected except perhaps for the better. The Texas law permits the operation of multi-county libraries jointly by the several counties; in other words, it would not be necessary for any one county to serve the others by contract. Assets would belong to all; employees would serve all jurisdictions equally. Such a multi-county unit could employ a professional (or college and partly professional) librarian to supervise the entire operation, select the books, give public service from time to time in all outlets, conduct training sessions and give direct on-the-spot assistance to local personnel. The new multi-county unit would be able, with its combined budget, to supply many more resources and services than before. Books would rotate on a regular basis from outlet to outlet. Users would freely use all the outlets' resources, in person or by request. (These same principles apply to county libraries with branches, e.g., Cristobal in Tom Green County. Branches are preferable to more small units within counties, as at Chillicothe, Old Glory, etc.)

24. Those counties in which club libraries, or semi-public libraries are moving toward public ownership and service might also find the road made easier and the rewards greater by approaching one or more neighboring counties about the possibility of a multi-county service.

25. If Jones County does not wish to give financial assistance to the three independent public libraries within its borders, it may wish to join with neighboring counties to contribute to a multi-county library with overall susprvision of a number of units, including the libraries in Jones County. Approval and partnership of the cities concerned would be necessary. Other counties in the multi-county cooperative might be the presently unserved counties of Fisher and Throckmorton, along with the presently inadequately served Haskell County. Another possible combination would be Nolan-Fisher-Jones Counties, a combination which would have the great advantage of a strong collection at Sweetwater. To some degree, these potential combinations may be affected by assignments of the counties to new areas.

The role of the State Library Consultant for the region in these cooperative ventures has not yet been mentioned. At the time of the survey visit, the position was vacant, and at the time of writing it has not as yet been filled. There can be no doubt, however, of two things: first, the Consultant's role will be a vital one, and second, that it will be different from that previously held. Some of the advisory and stimulative services formerly performed directly by the consultant with the librarians of the smaller libraries will, to some degree, be taken on by the Area Library or MRC personnel.

During the period of the development of the MRC program into a full-fledged system as envisioned by the State Library and the Library Development Committee of TLA--and it may be a long one--the Consultant will continue to perform those services not yet taken over by the new organization, and make every effort to bring to full fruition the planning and cooperative programs needed in the region. Since presumably much of the financial support for the program will come from state or federal sources, he will ex officio attend the various meetings in the region, and exercise whatever delegated supervisory authority is given him by the State Librarian or Director of Field Services. Early system efforts will undoubtedly be in the direction of cooperation in service, along the lines of these recommendations, or in other directions as the participating librarians see a need and an opportunity. The consultant may, therefore, have more time to work with officials in those counties without libraries, or, perhaps in cooperation with the Council of Governments, work to establish multi-county libraries in the region.

The very long-range picture is not clear, but if the experience of other states has any validity for Texas, the future consultant will be a specialist who works with regional specialists, who in turn work with local librarians.

### Recommendations for Cooperation Among Academic Libraries

1. It is recommended that the already-existing cooperation among the Abilene colleges and universities continue and increase. As has been indicated in the body of the Report, to some extent cooperation in acquisition depends upon decisions of the colleges themselves as to specialization in curriculum. Continued free inter-use, frequent conferences among library staffs, etc. are assumed to be essential and will no doubt continue.
2. When major and expensive purchases are contemplated by one of the libraries in Abilene, it is assumed that others will be notified, to avoid duplication of such specialized materials.

3. When budgets permit attention to those subjects noted in the body of the Report as weak in all three colleges, planned division of responsibility for them, based insofar as is possible on curriculum, should be undertaken.
4. It is recommended that all the eligible libraries in the region become members of the Southwest Academic Library Consortium, unless that body appears to make no useful contributions to service.
5. As Angelo State Library becomes stronger, as is fast happening, the academic librarians of the region should develop working relations with this strong resource, as has previously been done among the Abilene group. If possible, occasions should be found for regular meetings among the academic librarians, for the benefit of all. Telephone communications should be established, such as already exist among the public libraries, and later Teletype or Telex should be considered.

## Recommendations for Cooperation Among School Libraries

1. It seems clear that the impetus for future school library cooperation will come from the Regional Media Centers. These agencies may and probably will undertake additional services as soon as their function of providing and encouraging the use of instructional materials is well under way. It is therefore inappropriate for this Report to attempt to make many recommendations for this group, except to encourage the full participation in whatever programs the Media Centers offer.

## Priorities and Costs

Some of the above recommendations have been labelled urgent, others for future consideration. Some can be implemented with little or no cost, others will require considerable outlay. In priority order, these seem most urgent:

Meetings among librarians to discuss cooperation
Exhibit vehicle or bookmobile (cost of driver, maintenance, even if existing vehicle is used)
Public relations efforts (first priority for new personnel, but should start on a small scale even before one is employed)
Book review meetings, and various cooperative selection arrangements, among libraries of all types
In-service training in interviewing and reference techniques, for network users
Strengthening of MRC

The total cost of the program, except for the centralized processing for the entire region, is not high. Much could be begun almost at once if the Library Systems Act is funded. The great need is to begin, to develop interest and participation among librarians, enthusiasm and eagerness among the public. Among librarians, this can be accomplished by meetings and genuine involvement in planning; among the citizens of the region, by making a strong effort to bring books into their communities in greater quantities than before (through the vehicle) and to satisfy the desire which has been aroused by providing them locally or through the MRC system.